Shojo Beat Manga
NANA
TIMETABLE
PARENTAL ADVISORY
MATURE CONTENT
Story & Art by
Ai Yazawa
7

Shojo Beat

NANA Vol. 7

Story & Art by Ai Yazawa

NANA

Contents

Chapter 21 3
Chapter 22 49
Chapter 23 93
Chapter 24 138
Bonus Page 193

The Story of Nana

Nana "Hachi" Komatsu and Nana Osaki meet by chance on a train headed for Tokyo. Their personalities and the environments they grew up in are very different, but by fate or by chance, they meet again and become roommates...

Nana Osaki gets back together with her ex-boyfriend Ren, whom she hadn't seen for more than a year. Nana and Ren overcome their old conflicts, confirming that they still love each other. And now Nana is determined to keep up with Ren's band, Trapnest, and pushes her own band to succeed.

Meanwhile, Hachi starts going out with Takumi from Trapnest, whom she idolizes. Their controversial relationship starts to make waves with their friends. Takumi's got Hachi wrapped around his finger, while Nobu from Blast is in love with her. Nobu finally professes his love to Hachi, which causes her to reconsider her relationship with Takumi. And, around the same time, Shin and Reira...

Fast forward to the day of Blast's next live show, which will determine whether they get signed to a major label. Everyone is anxiously awaiting this important show!

♥For the complete story, please check out *Nana*, volumes 1 - 6.
Available in bookstores everywhere!!

IF BLAST DOESN'T GET SIGNED, THERE'S JUST NO HOPE FOR THIS WORLD.

NANA
TM
ナナ
[Chapter 21]

19:00 ~
☆Black Stones
☆Fulfill
☆Red Relish
THIS WAS BLAST'S THIRD SHOW IN TOKYO.
IT WAS A 40-MINUTE OPENING SLOT AT THE USUAL ROCK CLUB.
THE LINE'S ALREADY DOWN TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE!
WOW! BLAST HAS GOTTEN REALLY BIG!

MISATO HAD GONE OFF TO BUY A DRINK, WHILE I HELD OUR PLACE IN LINE OUTSIDE THE CLUB.
SHE CAME BACK TOTALLY AMPED.
OUR MISSION WAS TO GET RIGHT UP FRONT FOR BLAST.
GOOD THING WE CAME EARLY.
MAYBE WE SHOULD TELL JUNKO AND KYOSUKE TO GET DOWN HERE.
LAST TIME JUN GOT BUMMED ABOUT BEING CRUSHED UP FRONT...
SO THIS TIME THEY'RE GONNA WATCH FROM THE BACK.
REALLY? THAT'S SO WEIRD.
BUT THAT'S THE WHOLE THRILL OF IT!
Flashback
YAY!
I'M GONNA DIE!
STOP PUSHING!
ARGH...
I WAS SO PSYCHED— IT'S LIKE I DIED AND WENT TO HEAVEN!
EVEN BACK HOME, THEIR SHOWS NEVER GOT THAT CRAZY!
Ah Ha Ha
DIED AND WENT TO HEAVEN!
IT WAS ONLY THEIR THIRD TOKYO SHOW...

BUT BECAUSE THE LINE OUTSIDE WAS SO LONG, THE CLUB OPENED EARLY...
AND WAS TOTALLY PACKED RIGHT AWAY.
JUN MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO GET IN...
OH! WOW! COOL!
SAY WHAT ?!
IT'S SOLD OUT ?!
NO WAY...
BUT THERE AREN'T ANY SEATS. CAN'T YOU SQUEEZE IN TWO MORE PEOPLE ?
WE SHOULD JUST PLAY IT COOL.
C'MON ...
OUR FRIENDS' BAND IS PLAYING AT SEVEN O'CLOCK.
WE'RE ALREADY WAY OVER CAPACITY ...
YOUR FRIENDS' BAND? ARE YOU ON THE LIST?
YOUR NAMES ?
MAY-BE ...
SAO-TOME AND TAKA-KURA.
OH.
YEAH, FINE—
BUT YOU'LL BE ON THE UPPER BREEZE-WAY.

I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD'VE COME EARLY!
BUT WE CAME ALL THE WAY TO TOKYO JUST FOR THIS!
NOOOO!
AKIKO! IT'S YOUR FAULT 'CAUSE YOU HAD SUMMER SCHOOL!
THEN YOU CAN'T COME IN. IT'S SOLD OUT.
NO ...
HEY— YOU LADIES GOT TICKETS ?
THE SHOW STARTS SOON.
THANK YOU...
PHEW! WE'RE ON THE LIST.
GOOD THING THEY DIDN'T FORGET US...
WHaaaaT?!
IT'S YOUR FAULT YOU SCREW AROUND AND DON'T STUDY!
BUT TEACHER SAID I WON'T GRADUATE IF I DON'T TAKE IT!
...
WELL I SAID NO!
No way! We'll take the show!
ISN'T YOUR LIFE MORE IMPORTANT THAN A SHOW?
NO!
IF WE GO OVER CAPACITY, PEOPLE COULD GET HURT.
PLEASE! PLEASE!
CAN'T YOU LET US IN?!

WITH EACH SHOW THAT BLAST PLAYED ...

...I GOT DRUNK OFF THE AUDIENCE'S INCREASING ENTHUSIASM.

I GUESS TOKYO PEOPLE ARE ACTUALLY PRETTY NICE.
YEAH...
....
AFTER WHAT WE SPENT ON THE FLIGHTS, I WOULD'VE DIED IF ...
WE'RE SO LUCKY WE GOT IN, AKIKO.
I'M SO SORRY.
NO PROB-LEM.
EX-CUSE ...
OH!
THROB
WE HAVE TO GET DOWN THERE.
BUT HOW DO WE BUST THROUGH THIS CROWD, ...?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
BUT ISN'T THIS INSANE, HOW CROWDED IT IS?
AND WE WON'T GET KILLED.
MAYBE IT'S BETTER UP HERE, WHERE WE CAN SEE... ♡
YEAH, I'M SO GLAD WE GAVE HER OUR ADDRESS-ES!
BUT SHE ALWAYS SENDS US POSTCARD REMINDERS ABOUT THEIR NEXT SHOW. ♡
NOW THAT THEY'RE SO BIG, NANA PROBABLY WON'T REMEMBER US.
BUT IT MAKES ME KIND OF SAD.
IT'S 'CAUSE THEY'RE AWE-SOME.
WELL, NEXT TIME ...
WE'RE SKIPPING SCHOOL AND WORK. WE WON'T MISS A SHOW!
HEY NOW ...
EVEN IF WE HAVE TO HITCH-HIKE!
Totally !
EVEN IF WE HAVE TO SLEEP ON THE STREET!
ô .....

THAT NIGHT ...
...AT SEVEN O'CLOCK SHARP..
SEEING BLAST LIVE GIVES ME THIS AWESOME ENERGY THAT TOTALLY HELPS ME DEAL WITH LIFE.
...NANA WAS THE FIRST TO STRUT OUT ON STAGE.

woohoo

EVERY TIME THEY PLAYED A SHOW ...
... THE CROWD GOT CRAZIER AND CRAZIER ...
...AND I FELT LIKE I WAS GOING TO DISAP- PEAR IN IT.

Hello!
We're Blast!

WHAT'S UP
OH MAN!
DAMN, THEY ALREADY STARTED!
WOW!
WE CAN HEAR IT OUT HERE!
THEY'RE LOUD!
I WANT TO GO IN!
PLAY AT A BIGGER CLUB, BLAST!
TOKYO'S A BIG CITY!
WE SHOULD HAVE BOUGHT TICKETS.
DAMN.
LET'S WAIT FOR THEM TO COME OUT!
HUH ?
WHO YOU WAIT-ING FOR?
YASU! ♡♡
HE'S GOT SKILLS!
NO WAY !
YASU'S MINE!
.....
WHAT'S GOING ON?
SOME ROCK SHOW?
IT'S SUMMER BREAK ...
SO KIDS CAME TO TOKYO TO SEE THE SHOW.
THAT'S WHY IT'S PACKED.
EVEN SO, THIS IS PURE INSANITY.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
SHOULD WE GET A DRINK NEARBY UNTIL THE SHOW'S OVER?
SURE ...
WE CAME DOWN HERE, SO WE SHOULD AT LEAST SAY HI TO NANA.

SO, IF THEY HAVE THAT MANY FOLLOWERS, THEY SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM GETTING SIGNED.
THAT'S IT! "FOLLOWERS"!
MISATO ACTS LIKE THAT, AND NANA TREATS NANA O. LIKE THAT, TOO!
YEAH ... YOU'RE RIGHT.
I THOUGHT SHE STOPPED YAMMERING ON ABOUT THE DEMON LORD 'CAUSE SHE MATURED, BUT I GUESS IT'S JUST 'CAUSE SHE MOVED ON TO THE BLAST RELIGION.
ADDICTIVE PERSONALITY!
WELL, SHE'S MORE POSITIVE NOW THAT SHE DOESN'T BLAME EVERYTHING ON THE DEMON LORD.
HA HA!
AND BLAST IS PRETTY GREAT.
I CAN SEE WHY THEY'VE GOT THEIR FOLLOWERS.
THEY HAVE AN INCREDIBLE STAGE PRESENCE.
YEAH ...
ESPECIALLY NANA ...
SHE'S LIKE A GURU.
BUT YOU KNOW ...
EVEN THE BEST BANDS DON'T ALWAYS MAKE IT IN THE BIZ.

YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO PERFORM AT A CERTAIN LEVEL.
IF YOU WANT TO GO MAJOR LABEL...
IT'S NOT ABOUT HOW WELL YOU PLAY.
BUT I GUESS AT THAT POINT ...

CHARISMA!

Gaia Records Co., Ltd.

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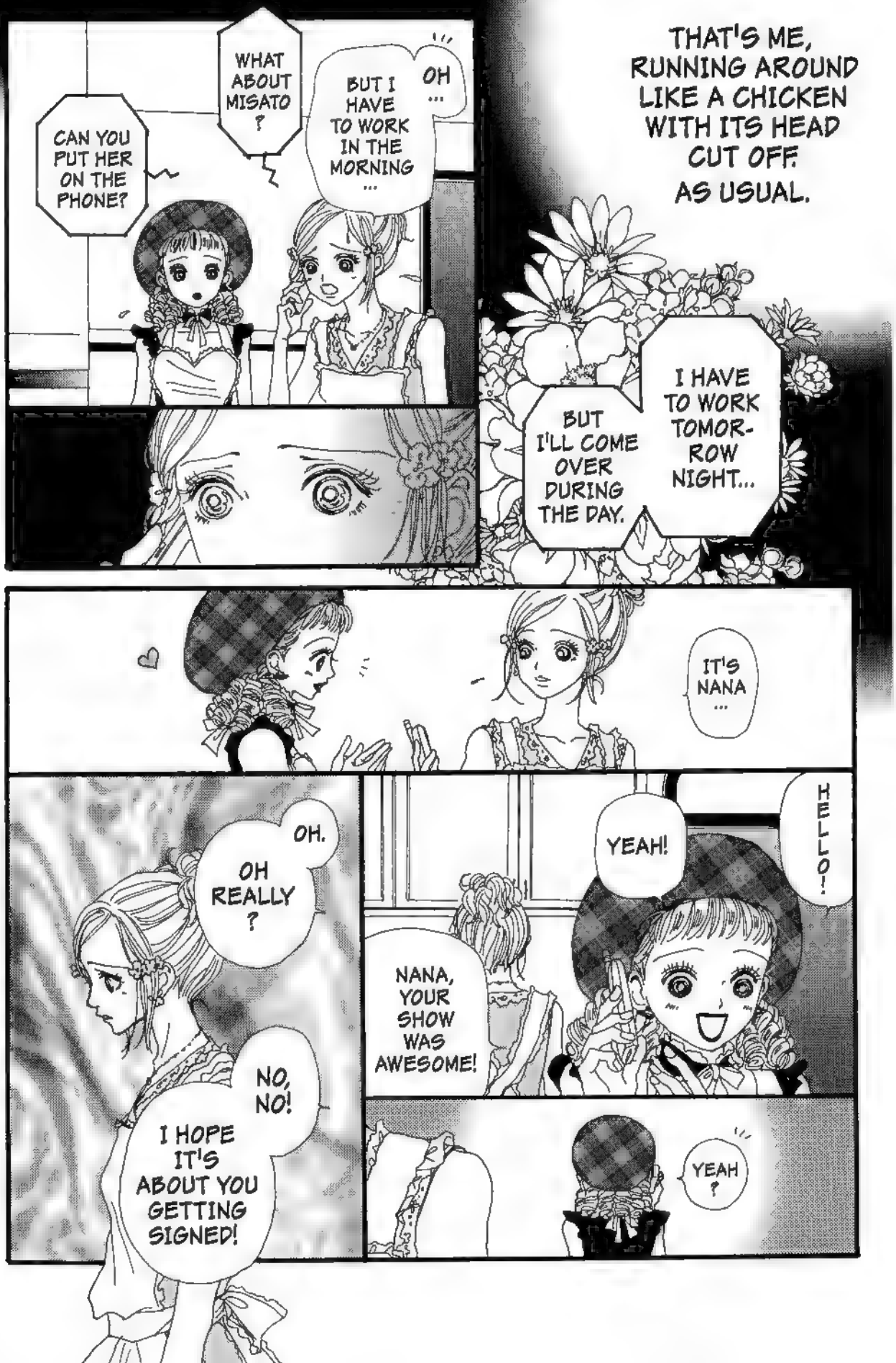
YOUR BAND'S DEFINITELY GOT IT.
BOTH YOUR STAGE PRESENCE AND YOUR SONGS ARE GREAT.
IT WAS AN AMAZING SHOW.
I'VE BEEN IN THIS BUSINESS FOR A LONG TIME...
...AND I HAVEN'T BEEN THIS IMPRESSED FOR QUITE A WHILE.

SO WE REALLY NEED TO TALK SOME THINGS OVER.
INSTEAD OF TALKING HERE...
...HOW ABOUT WE GO OUT TOGETHER ...
...FOR SUSHI ?
YAY!♡
SUSHI!
JUMP
cough
SHIN...
...
YOU DIDN'T GO BACK-STAGE AND SAY HI TO THEM?
WHAT ?

I MADE LOTS OF GOOD SNACKS TODAY, 'CAUSE I KNEW WE'D BE CELEBRATING FOR SURE!
YEAH.
STAY AND PARTY, JUN!
THEN SHOULD WE DROP YOU AT YOUR PLACE?
OOOH, AN AFTER-PARTY?
I CAN HANG WITH THEM LATER AT OUR PLACE.
THE RECORD COMPANY GUY WAS THERE, SO I DIDN'T WANT TO INTRUDE.
NO ...
I CAN'T, SORRY.
WE'VE GOT STUFF TO DO.
WE HAVE TO GET HOME.
WHY?
HUH?
BUT IT'S SUMMER BREAK ...
WE HAVE A GROUP SHOW STARTING NEXT WEEK.
SIX OF US FROM ART SCHOOL ARE RENTING A GALLERY.
SO WE'RE WORKING ON THE PIECES WE'LL BE HANGING.
OH REALLY?
A GROUP SHOW...
THAT SOUNDS ARTSY ...
YOU CAME OUT WHEN YOU'RE SO BUSY? IT'S REALLY TOO BAD YOU COULDN'T GET IN.
NO ...
NOT COMPARED TO THE TRAGEDY OF COMING ALL THE WAY TO TOKYO AND NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE THEM...
TRUE THAT.
HERE'S A FLYER FOR OUR EXHIBITION.
COME DOWN AND SEE IT IF YOU CAN.

F Art College Oil-painting majors, 2nd year
Miyuki Aikawa
Masahiro Ishibashi
Yoshihiro Kume
Junko Saotome
Kyosuke Takakura
Hiroshi Nakane
ALL OF THEM PURSUING THEIR DREAMS.
FRIENDS IN THE SAME MAJOR...
I FEEL LIKE I'M GETTING LEFT BEHIND...
ZAP
beep
HELLO ?
OH ... HACHI-KO...
YOUR PHONE'S RINGING.
OH! ♡ NANA!
WHAT ABOUT YOU GUYS? WHEN WILL YOU GET HERE?
YEAH, JUNKO AND KYOSUKE DROVE US.
WE'RE BACK AT HOME.
HEY, GREAT SHOW!

chop
OH NO...
I'M SORRY, NANA.
I DON'T THINK WE CAN MAKE IT.
THE GAIA GUY'S TAKING US OUT TO EAT AND TALK.
IT'LL PROBABLY BE LATE BY THE TIME WE...
DID YOU ALREADY MAKE STUFF FOR AN AFTER-PARTY?
OH...
IT'LL BE OKAY.
I'M SORRY, REALLY.
IT'S COOL ...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT US.
OH— NO!
NOT YET!
WE JUST GOT HOME!


CAN YOU PUT HER ON THE PHONE?
WHAT ABOUT MISATO?
BUT I HAVE TO WORK IN THE MORNING...
OH...
THAT'S ME, RUNNING AROUND LIKE A CHICKEN WITH ITS HEAD CUT OFF. AS USUAL.
I HAVE TO WORK TOMOR-ROW NIGHT...
BUT I'LL COME OVER DURING THE DAY.
IT'S NANA...
HELLO!
YEAH!
NANA, YOUR SHOW WAS AWESOME!
YEAH?
OH.
OH REALLY?
NO, NO!
I HOPE IT'S ABOUT YOU GETTING SIGNED!

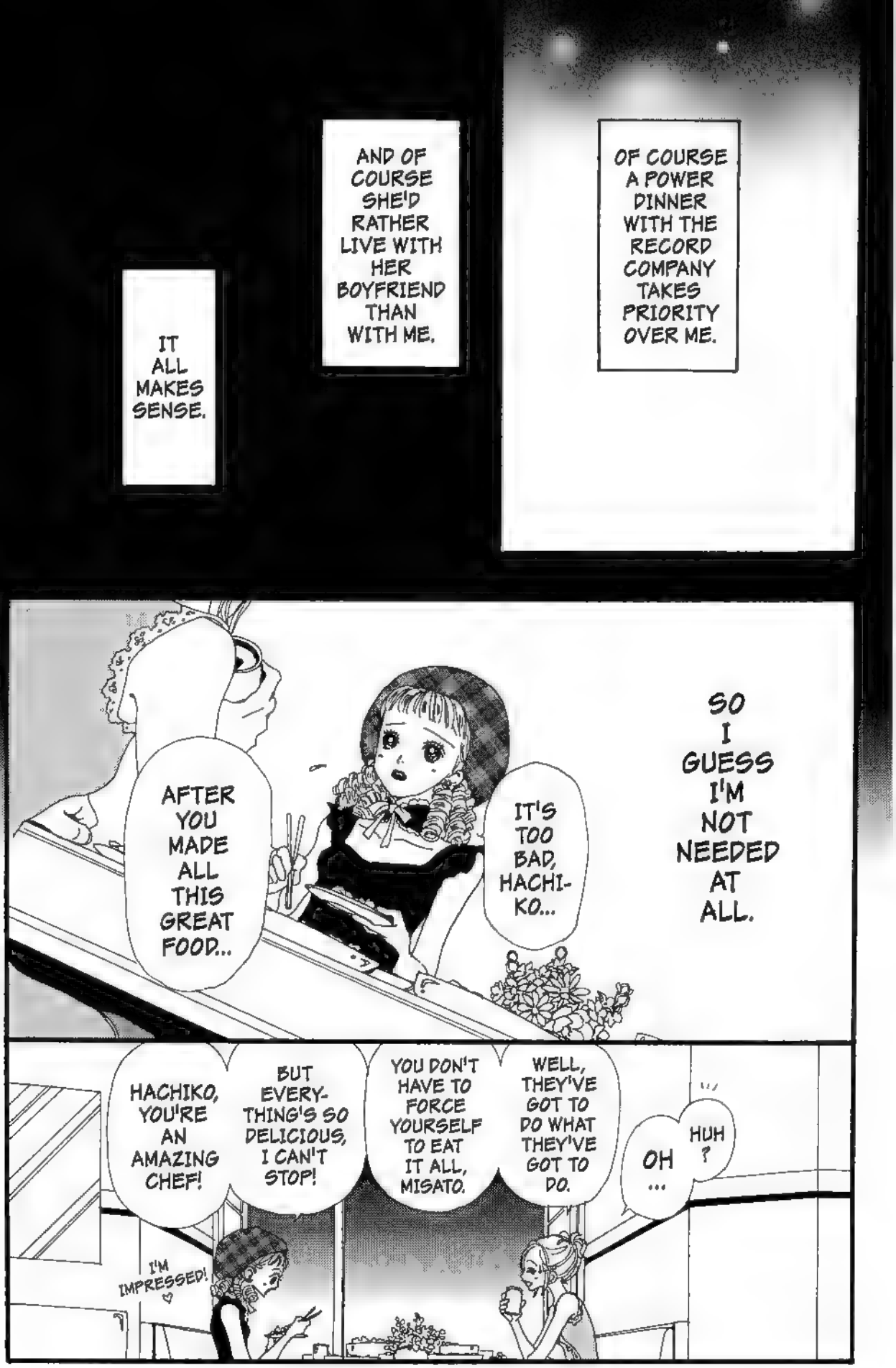
SURE!
I'LL WAIT FOR YOU AT THE APART-MENT!
YEAH ?
SO TOMOR-ROW?
WHAT ABOUT ME?
WHAT ABOUT ME?!
HEY NANA...
NANA!
MR. KAWANO GOT A CAB FOR US, SO WE HAVE TO SPLIT.
THE CAB'S WAITING OUT BACK...
OH— SORRY.
YOU ON THE PHONE ?

SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.
SAY BYE TO HACHIKO FOR ME.
SORRY MISATO— GOTTA GO.
WHAT ABOUT HACHI ?
WAS THAT MISATO ?
beep
THE DOOR'S OPEN.
STAY IN MY ROOM, NO PROB.
YEAH, SURE.
WHAT ?
LET'S GO.
NOT!
MISATO AND HACHI SHOULD COME TO SUSHI WITH US.
SHE SAID NOT TO WORRY ABOUT THEM.
THANKS MAN!
CHAIK
HEY!
LOOK!
NOT ?!

GULP
I GOT YOUR SELF-RELEASED CD! IT'S SO RAD!! NANA, YOUR SONGS CHEER ME UP AND INSPIRE ME. YOUR LYRICS REALLY SPEAK TO ME AS A GIRL. I WISH MORE PEOPL
NANA!
Ueek!
NANA, YOUR SONGS CHEER ME UP AND INSPIRE ME.

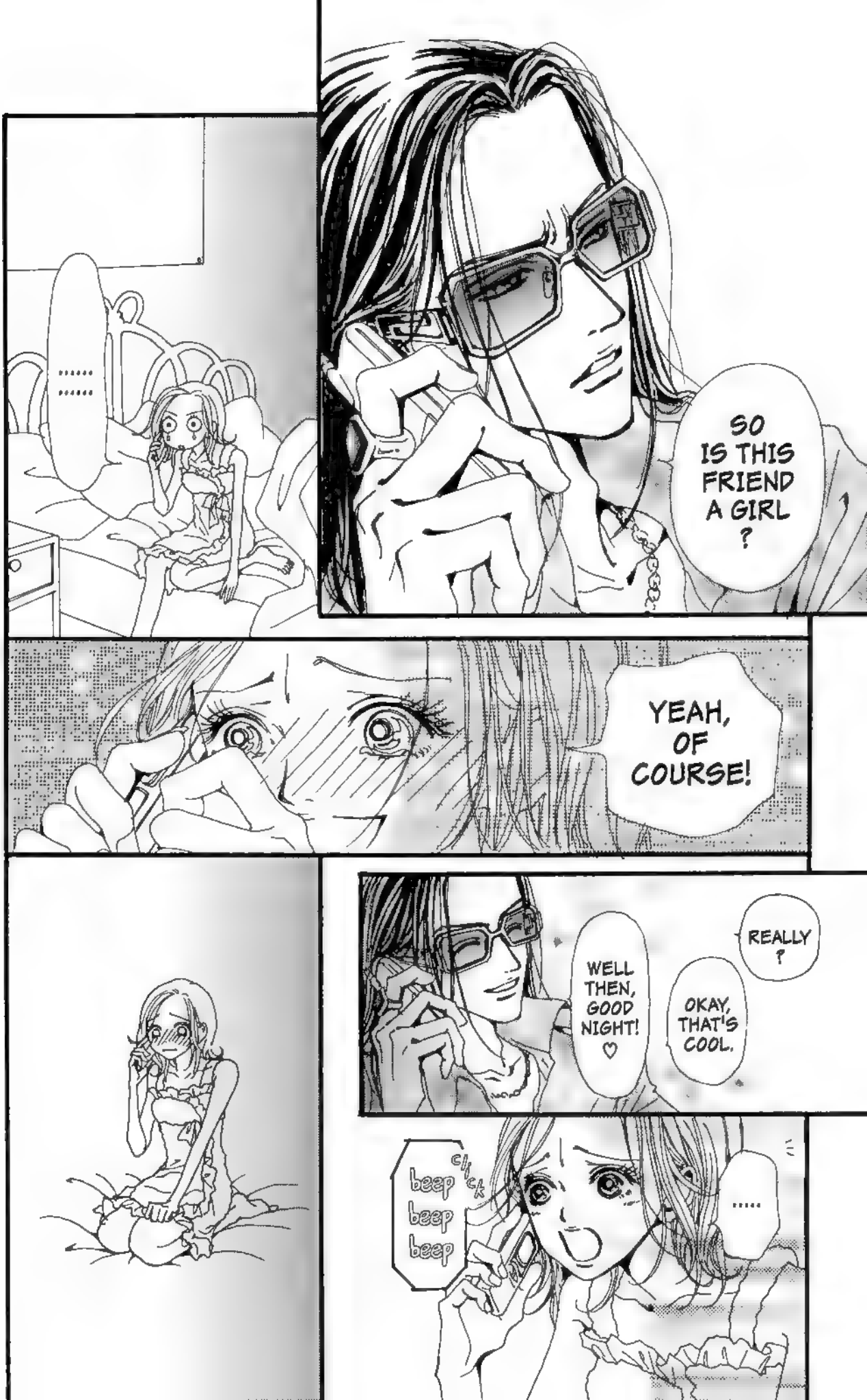
NO WONDER ...

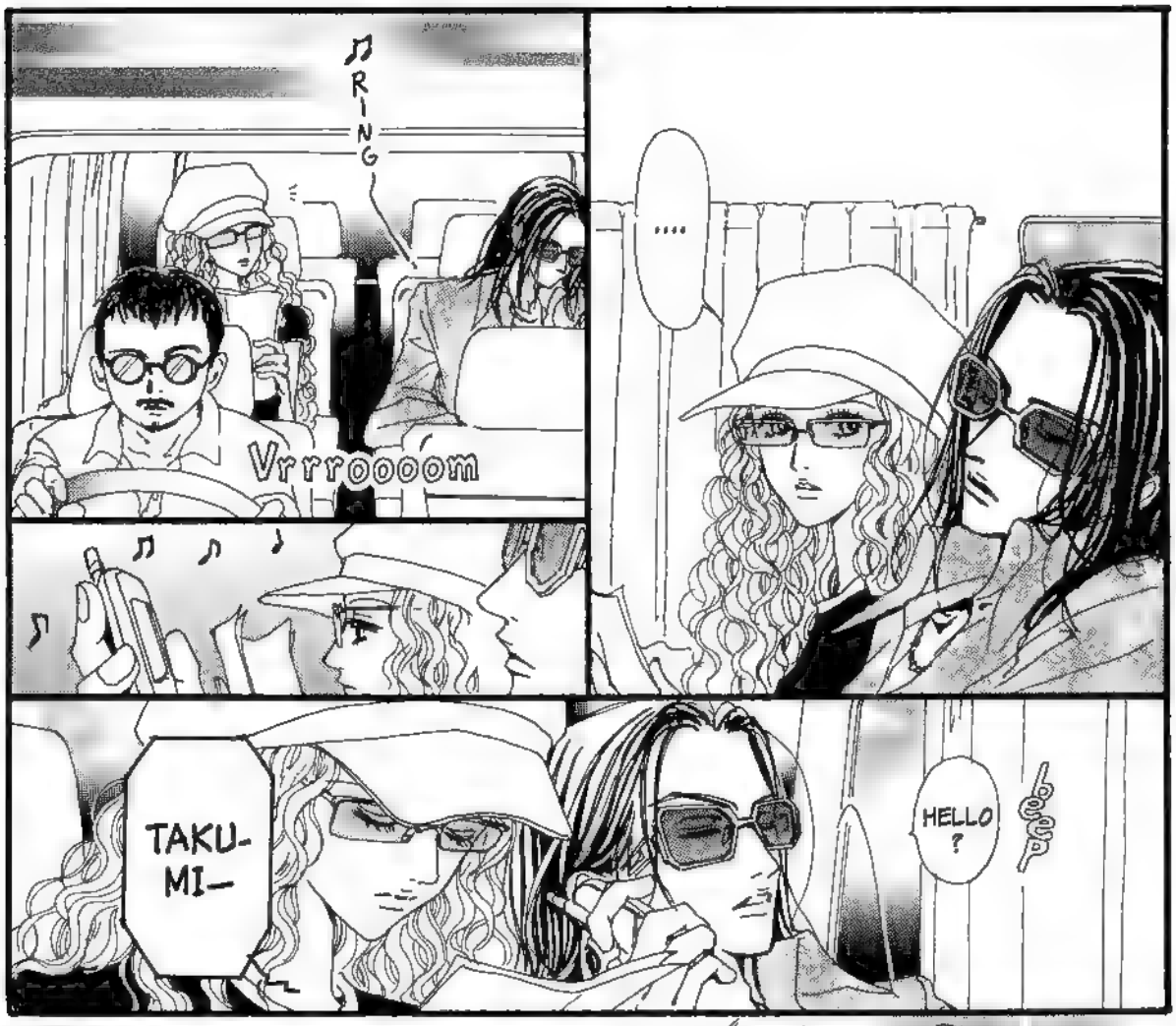
...AND COMES TO TOKYO FOR EVERY SHOW.
'CAUSE SHE STALKS NANA OBSES-SIVELY ...
... NANA LIKES MISATO MORE THAN ME...


OF COURSE A POWER DINNER WITH THE RECORD COMPANY TAKES PRIORITY OVER ME.
AND OF COURSE SHE'D RATHER LIVE WITH HER BOYFRIEND THAN WITH ME.
IT ALL MAKES SENSE.
SO I GUESS I'M NOT NEEDED AT ALL.
IT'S TOO BAD, HACHI-KO...
AFTER YOU MADE ALL THIS GREAT FOOD...
HUH ?
OH ...
WELL, THEY'VE GOT TO DO WHAT THEY'VE GOT TO DO.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO EAT IT ALL, MISATO.
BUT EVERY-THING'S SO DELICIOUS, I CAN'T STOP!
HACHIKO, YOU'RE AN AMAZING CHEF!
I'M IMPRESSED! ♡

I HOPE WE CAN LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE FOR A MONTH.
BUT IT MAKES MY OWN JEALOUS TENDENCIES STAND OUT.
beep
MISATO'S A GOOD EGG.
....
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S OBSESSED WITH NANA, SHE'S NOT COMPETITIVE ABOUT IT.
SHE'S JUST A VERY SWEET GIRL.
SHE'S SINCERELY HAPPY FOR NANA, AND REN.
beep
4. Create message
beep
Takumi
1
I NEVER KNOW WHEN I'LL SEE THAT GUY, ANYWAY.
BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT.
THIS IS LIKE SAYING WE CAN'T SEE EACH OTHER UNTIL SUMMER BREAK'S OVER.
Text:
I have a friend staying here for the summer, so you probably shouldn't come over here.
Nana

OH...
WHAT CAN I DO?
I'M...
plop
I TRIED NOT TO LOOK AT HIM ON STAGE.
I DIDN'T SEE NOBU TONIGHT EITHER.
LONELY.
Ring ring


.....
.....
SO IS THIS FRIEND A GIRL ?
YEAH, OF COURSE!
REALLY ?
OKAY, THAT'S COOL.
WELL THEN, GOOD NIGHT! ♡
beep beep beep
click
.....


♫RING
Vrrroooom
....
♫ ♫ ♪
♪
TAKU-
MI—
HELLO
?
beep

I
WANT
TO
SEE
YOU...

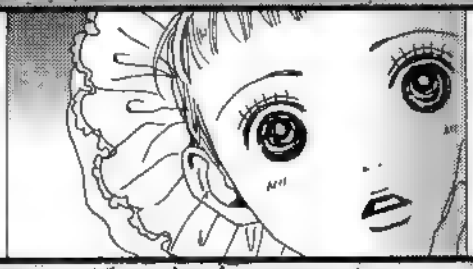
THANKS FOR LETTING ME USE YOUR BATH-TUB.
IT'S FANCY.
Steam
OH— HACHI-KO.
BAM
WHAT ?
THIS LATE ?
MISATO, I'M SORRY!
I'M GOING OUT FOR A WHILE.
I'LL LEAVE YOU MY KEY, SO WHEN YOU GO OUT, PUT THE KEY IN OUR MAIL BOX.
BUT I CAN'T COME HOME TONIGHT, SO I'LL GO STRAIGHT TO WORK.
IT'S NOTHING REALLY ...
UH, NO.
IS ANY-THING WRONG ?
BUT I JUST CAN'T SLEEP ALONE TONIGHT.
I'M SORRY TO LEAVE YOU HERE BY YOUR-SELF ...
TOT

STOMP STOMP STOMP
WHEN YOU COME OVER TOMORROW, BRING ME A CHANGE OF CLOTHES. ♡
SO DON'T JUST TAKE OFF.
I'LL COME GET YOU AT 10 IN THE MORN-ING.
'NIGHT TAKUMI.
NO PROBLEM. THANKS, TAKE.
beep beep
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT, REIRA.
....
TAKE, GET ME A ROOM TOO!
I GOT TOTALLY CAR SICK...
Vrrroooom
OH MAN ... THE METER'S GETTING PRETTY HIGH...
BY THE TIME I GET THERE, IT'LL COST ME WHAT-EVER I MAKE TOMORROW.

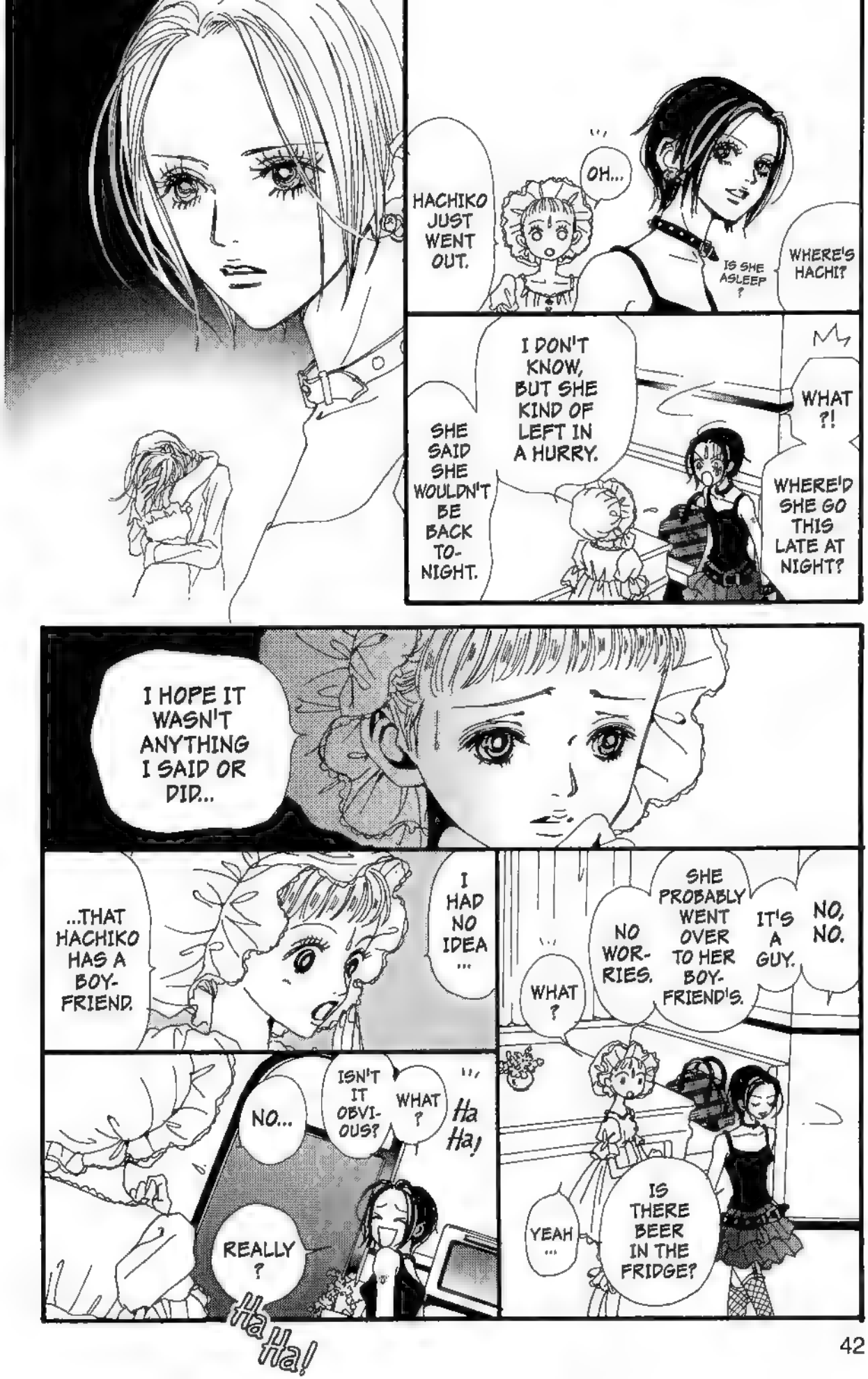
SO THAT MEANS WE'RE NOT OVER.
♫ RING
beep
Room 2015. It's not a big suite. That privilege is for the first and last time only.
HOW 'BOUT A SECOND ROUND OF DRINKS NEARBY?
YEAH, RIGHT!
NOBU AUCTIONED OFF ANOTHER BUTTON OF HIS SCHOOL UNIFORM!
I DON'T GET IT!
NOBU, HOW WERE YOU MORE POPULAR THAN ME TONIGHT?
THANKS FOR THE GREAT DINNER.
THANKS SO MUCH FOR EVERY-THING, MR. KAWANO.
OKAY.
I'LL HAVE TO FIGURE THAT OUT, ALONG WITH THE CONTRACT.
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOUR RESPONSE.
WHEN YOU LOOK LIKE THAT!
YOU WORK FOR A LAW FIRM.
OH YEAH.
I CAN'T, I HAVE TO WORK TOMOR-ROW.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT YOUR DAY JOB?

SO I'LL GO HOME AND SEE HER TONIGHT.
HACHIKO SAID SHE HAS TO WORK IN THE MORNING...
TAXI STAND
...SHARE A CAB WITH NOBU AND SHIN.
I'LL JUST ...
YASU ...
TELL HER SORRY THAT WE WEREN'T ABLE TO MAKE IT FOR AN AFTER-PARTY.
THAT'S SWEET.
OKAY ...
Ah Ha Ha
EVEN IF HE SAYS HE WAS IMPRESSED ....
DOES HE REALLY UNDERSTAND PUNK, OR ROCK MUSIC?
LIKE OUR RELEASE MIGHT TAKE FOREVER ...
... TOO LAID-BACK.
MR. KAWANO SEEMS KINDA...

LET'S SPLIT THE CHANGE.
¥100¢
.....
HMMM... THAT DOESN'T MAKE HIM A GOOD GUY!
WELL, HE GAVE US CAB FARE HOME.
HE'S A GOOD MAN. ♡
♫ RING
....
SLUMP
EXCUSE ME, CAN YOU STOP HERE?
THUMP
SAY HI TO HACHI FOR ME, NOBU.
HE NEVER STOPS
A GIRL?
WHAT THE HELL ?!
AT LEAST GROW YOUR HAIR OUT.
BUT I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S YOUR STYLE.
THAT'S NOT HOW I WANT TO BEAT HIM!
SLAM
THERE ARE OTHER WOMEN.
I'M "POPULAR" ANYWAY.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
NO ...
ARE YOU COMING OVER?



I'M HOME! ♡
YAY-!♡
YAY-!♡
YAY-!♡
YAY-!♡
SORRY IF I WOKE YOU UP.
I LEFT MY KEY AT SOMEONE'S PLACE.
AT REN'S ?
OH NO...
I WAS STILL UP.


WHERE'S HACHI?
IS SHE ASLEEP?
OH...
HACHIKO JUST WENT OUT.
WHERE'D SHE GO THIS LATE AT NIGHT?
WHAT?!
I DON'T KNOW, BUT SHE KIND OF LEFT IN A HURRY.
SHE SAID SHE WOULDN'T BE BACK TO-NIGHT.
I HOPE IT WASN'T ANYTHING I SAID OR DID...
NO, NO.
IT'S A GUY.
SHE PROBABLY WENT OVER TO HER BOY-FRIEND'S.
NO WOR-RIES.
WHAT?
I HAD NO IDEA...
...THAT HACHIKO HAS A BOY-FRIEND.
IS THERE BEER IN THE FRIDGE?
YEAH...
Ha Ha!
WHAT?
ISN'T IT OBVI-OUS?
NO...
REALLY?
Ha Ha!

I ALWAYS THOUGHT HACHIKO WAS ONLY IN LOVE WITH YOU, NANA.
ARE YOU FOR REALS ?!
BUT YOU'RE MY ONLY LOVE, NANA.
PLEASE DON'T SAY IT'S NOT POSSI-BLE.
WHOA, SORRY...
.....
WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S A MICRO-WAVE.
OH— ♡
WELL I KNOW THAT, BUT...
HACHIKO BOUGHT IT ON LAYAWAY.
THAT WAS THE ONLY PLACE TO PUT IT.
IF SHE HAS THAT KIND OF MONEY, LET'S BUY AN AIR CONDI-TIONER!
HEE HEE

HEY ...
WHY'S THERE SO MUCH FOOD IN HERE?
SHE'D ALREADY MADE ALL THAT WHEN I CAME OVER. SHE SAID YOU'D PROBABLY BE CELEBRATING TONIGHT.
WELL, HACHI-KO...
THAT'S, UM....
OH...
I'M SO SORRY ...
NO ...
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, NANA.
UM ...
SO WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE RECORD COMPANY GUY?
DID YOU ALREADY MAKE STUFF FOR AN AFTER-PARTY?
OH— NO! NOT YET!
IT'S COOL. DON'T WORRY ABOUT US.

Black Stones
Black Stones
HEY, NANA...

IF YOU AND I WERE LOVERS...
...WOULD WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FILL THE EMPTINESS BY HOLDING EACH OTHER?
...THIS KIND OF LONELINESS...?
OR DOES EVERYONE BEAR...

Blow

I DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE YOU ALL MINE.

I JUST WANTED YOU TO NEED ME, NANA.

ナナ
[Chapter 22]

WHY AM I SO WEAK?

MORE AND MORE, I WAS FORCED TO REALIZE THAT FACT.

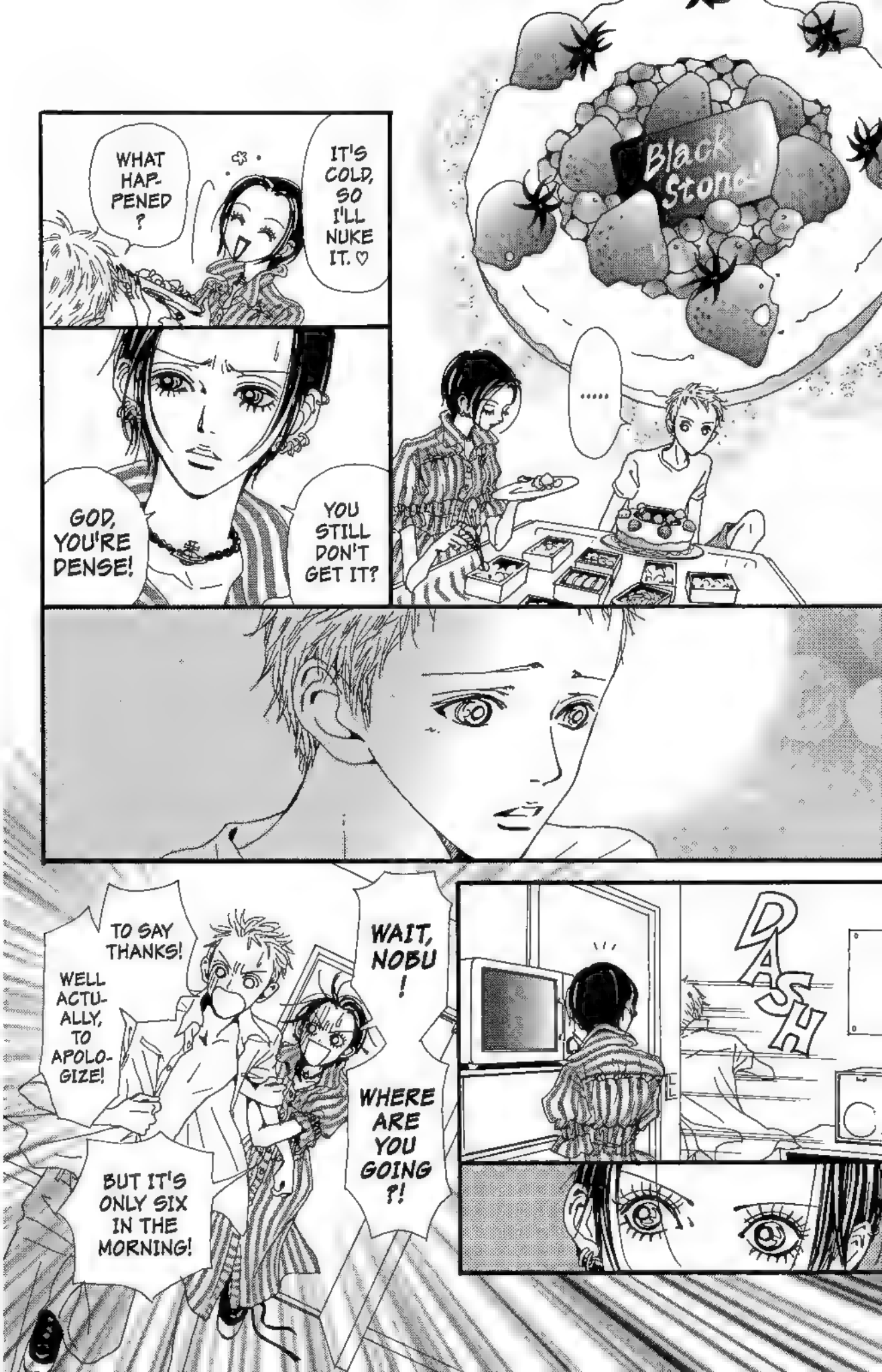
I FELT MORE TERRIFIED THAN LONELY.

NO MATTER HOW CLOSE I GOT TO THEM, NO MATTER HOW OFTEN I WENT TO THE STUDIO, I WAS NEVER A MEMBER OF BLAST.

Ding dong
Ding dong
Ding dong

BAM
SHIN!
Did you lose your key again?!
Ding dong
DING...
DONG...

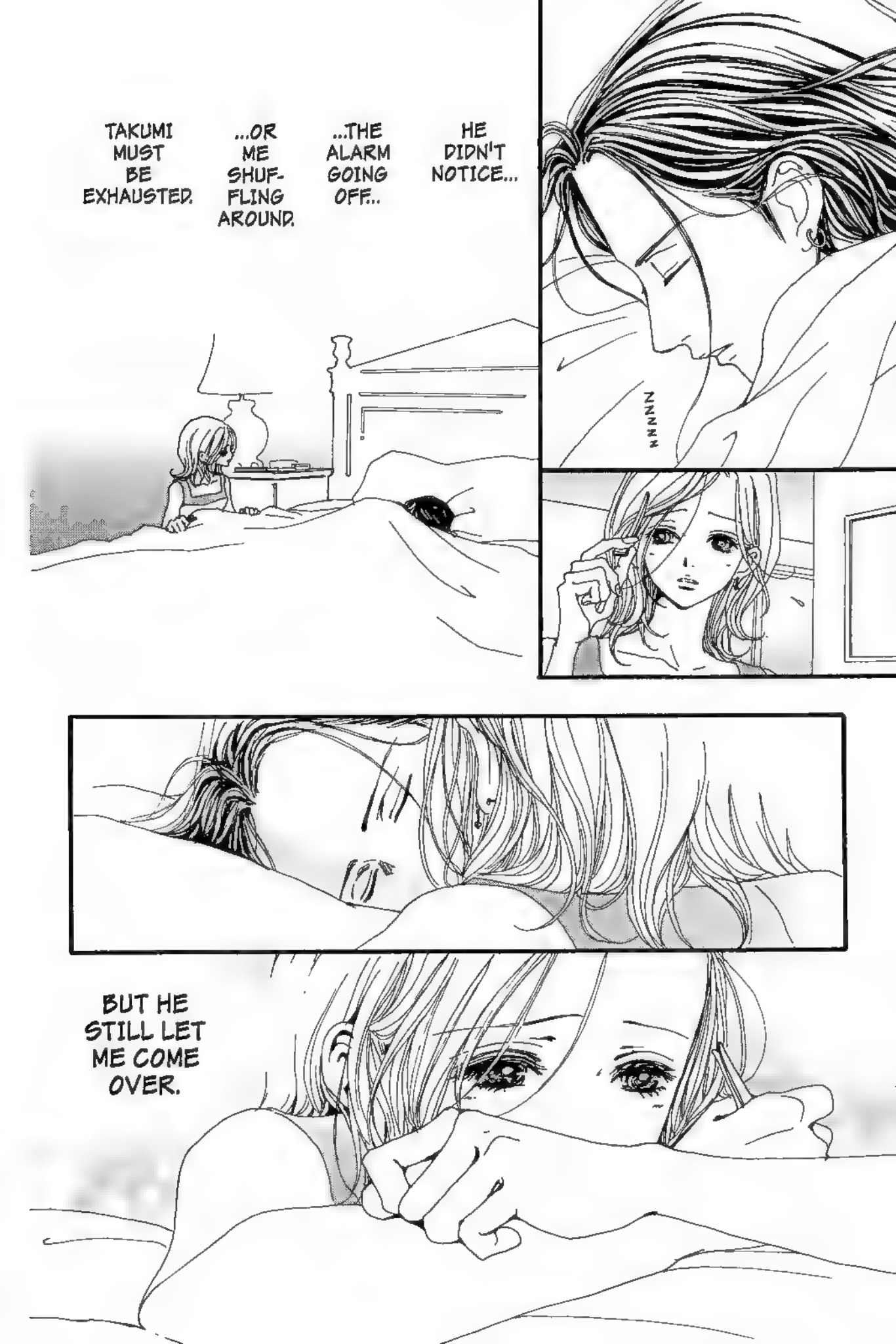
Gift from Misato.
SO I SEE YOU DIDN'T BRING ANYONE HOME.
Breeze
NO LADIES ?
LADIES ?
WHAT ?!
PLUNK
HONEY, I BROUGHT BREAK-FAST! ♡
WHAT KIND OF HARASS-MENT IS THAT?
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSI-NESS!
Nana, what the hell's go-ing on?!
YAY! ♡
THERE'S SOME CAKE, TOO! ♡
How can anyone eat all that?!
Black Stone
That's an entire cake!
PLOP


Black Stone
.....
IT'S COLD, SO I'LL NUKE IT. ♡
WHAT HAP-PENED ?
YOU STILL DON'T GET IT?
GOD, YOU'RE DENSE!
DASH
WAIT, NOBU !
WHERE ARE YOU GOING ?!
TO SAY THANKS!
WELL ACTU-ALLY, TO APOLO-GIZE!
BUT IT'S ONLY SIX IN THE MORNING!

HACHIKO'S STILL ASLEEP ...
OH...
chirp chirp
PHEW!
YOU HAVE TO WORK TODAY TOO, RIGHT?
YEAH ...
WELL THEN, LET'S EAT.
SHE'S GOT WORK IN THE MORNING, SO IF YOU'RE GOING TO APOLOGIZE, DO IT TONIGHT.
GOOD MORNING, JAPAN!
IT'S SUNDAY, JULY 29TH.
WE HAVE NICE WEATHER THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TODAY.
THE KANTO AREA...
...WILL BE WINDY THIS EVENING.
WE'LL HAVE THE NEWS AFTER THIS BREAK.
Y'KNOW, I'VE BEEN THINKING ...
AND ?

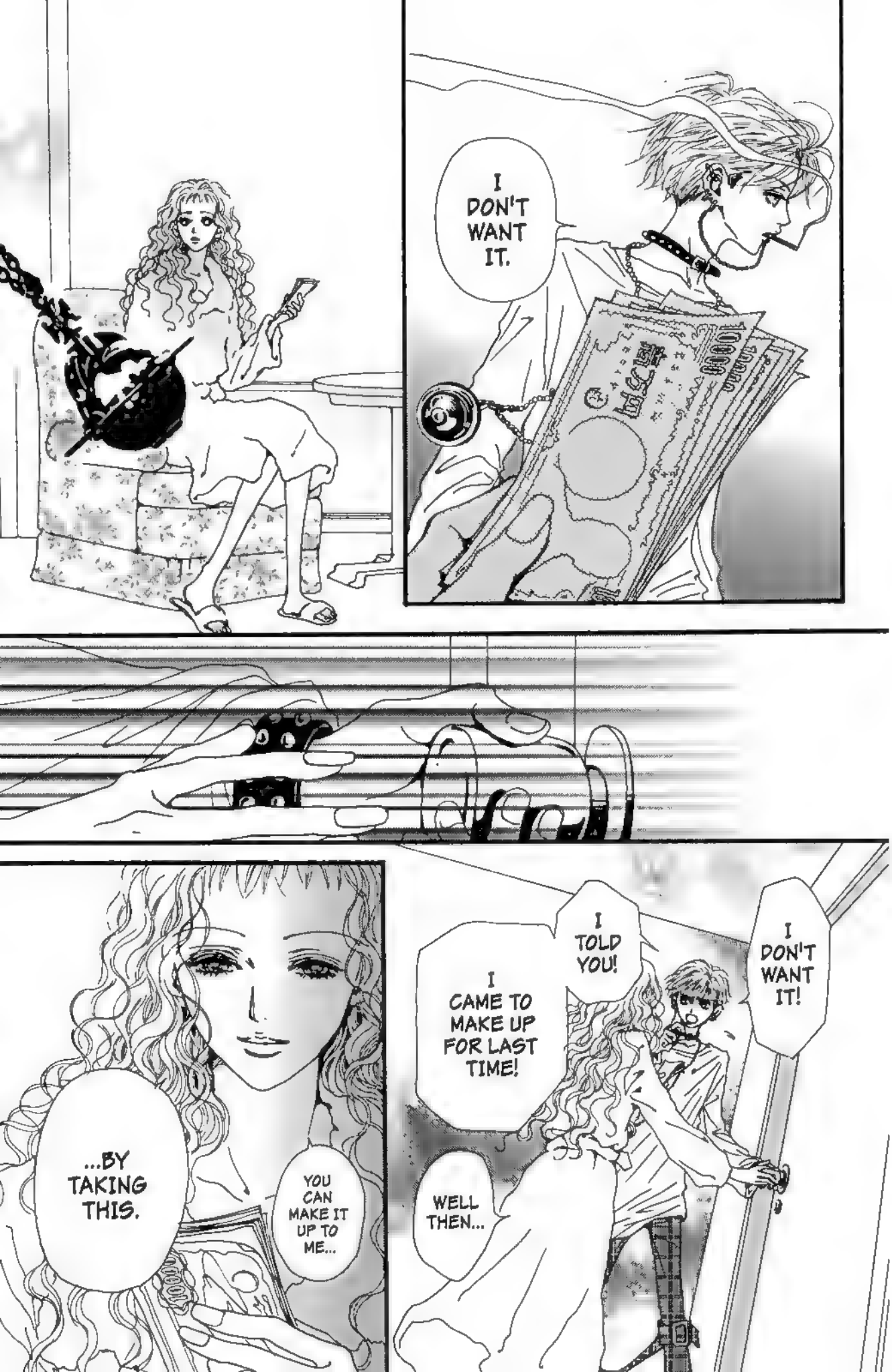
BLUSH
HACHI'S AN INCRED-IBLE COOK.
REALLY?
SO SHE'S NOT MEDIO-CRE?
I'M LEAV-ING THE LEFT-OVERS HERE.
TELL SHIN ...
AND CALL YASU, AND HAVE THEM EAT IT TOO.
I'LL TELL YASU TO DROP BY AFTER WORK.
HE SHOULD AT LEAST TAKE SUNDAY OFF.
BUT WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF WE VISITED HACHI THIS EVENING?
WE HAVE TO WELCOME MISATO TOO.
DO WHAT YOU WANT.
I HAVE TO WORK TONIGHT, SO I'M EATING SOME CAKE NOW. ♡
BUT THE CAKE'S TOO PRECIOUS TO CUT!
AT LEAST TAKE A PHOTO FIRST!

CRASH
I ALREADY TOOK ONE. ♡
SEE! ♡
I WANT IT!
Zzzzzzzzzz

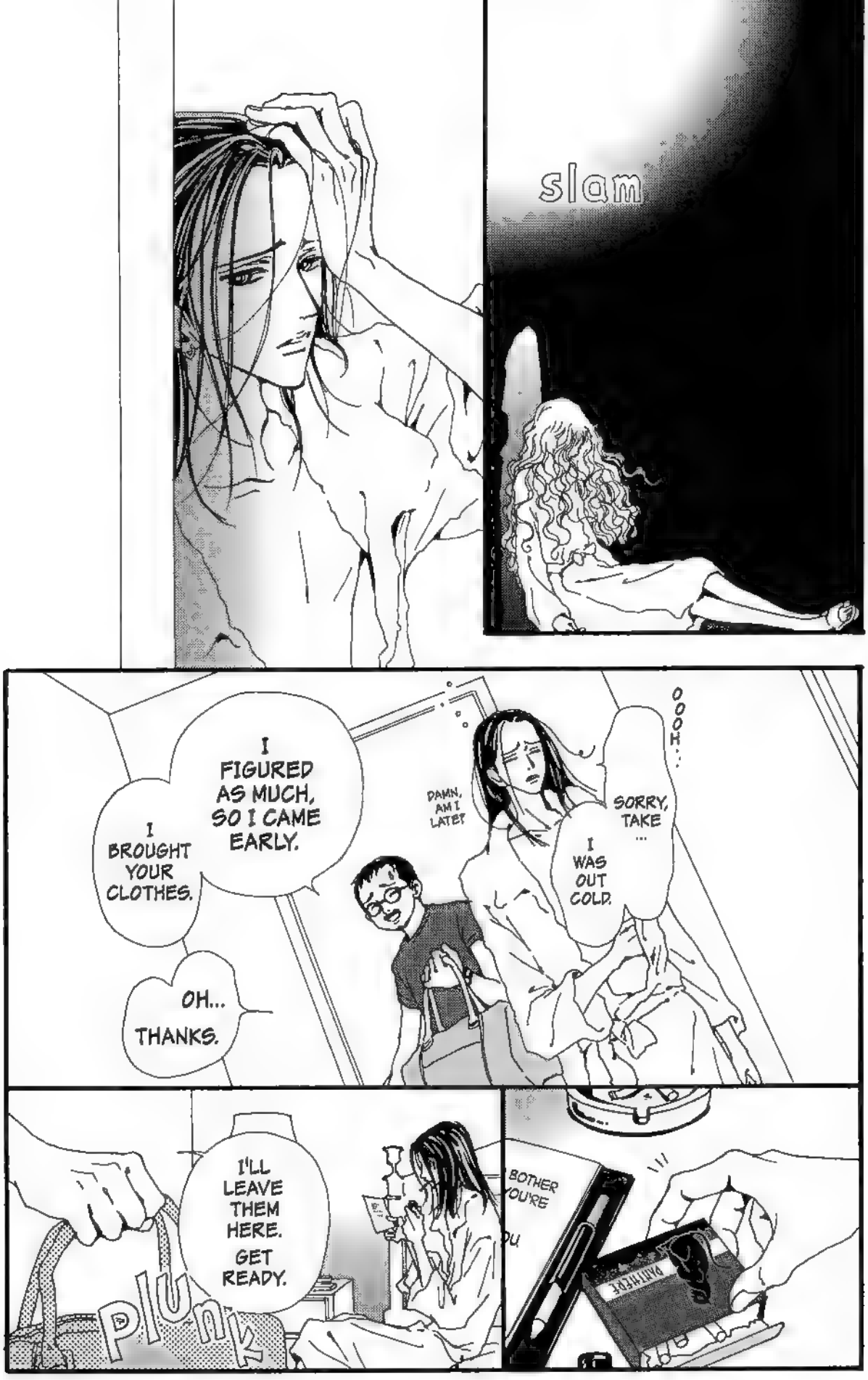

TAKUMI MUST BE EXHAUSTED.
...OR ME SHUF-FLING AROUND.
...THE ALARM GOING OFF..
HE DIDN'T NOTICE...
ZZZZZ
BUT HE STILL LET ME COME OVER.

I'M HAPPY...
...BUT I FEEL A LITTLE GUILTY.
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU WHEN YOU'RE BUSY.
BUT THANK YOU. I'LL EMAIL YOU.
I THOUGHT I WAS JUST...
...SOMEONE CONVENIENT FOR TAKUMI TO SLEEP WITH WHENEVER HE WANTED.
BUT MAYBE IT'S MORE LIKE...
...I'M THE ONE USING TAKUMI...
...AS SOMEONE CONVENIENT TO HOLD ME WHEN I'M LONELY.
CLINK

Blast
Blast
FLICK

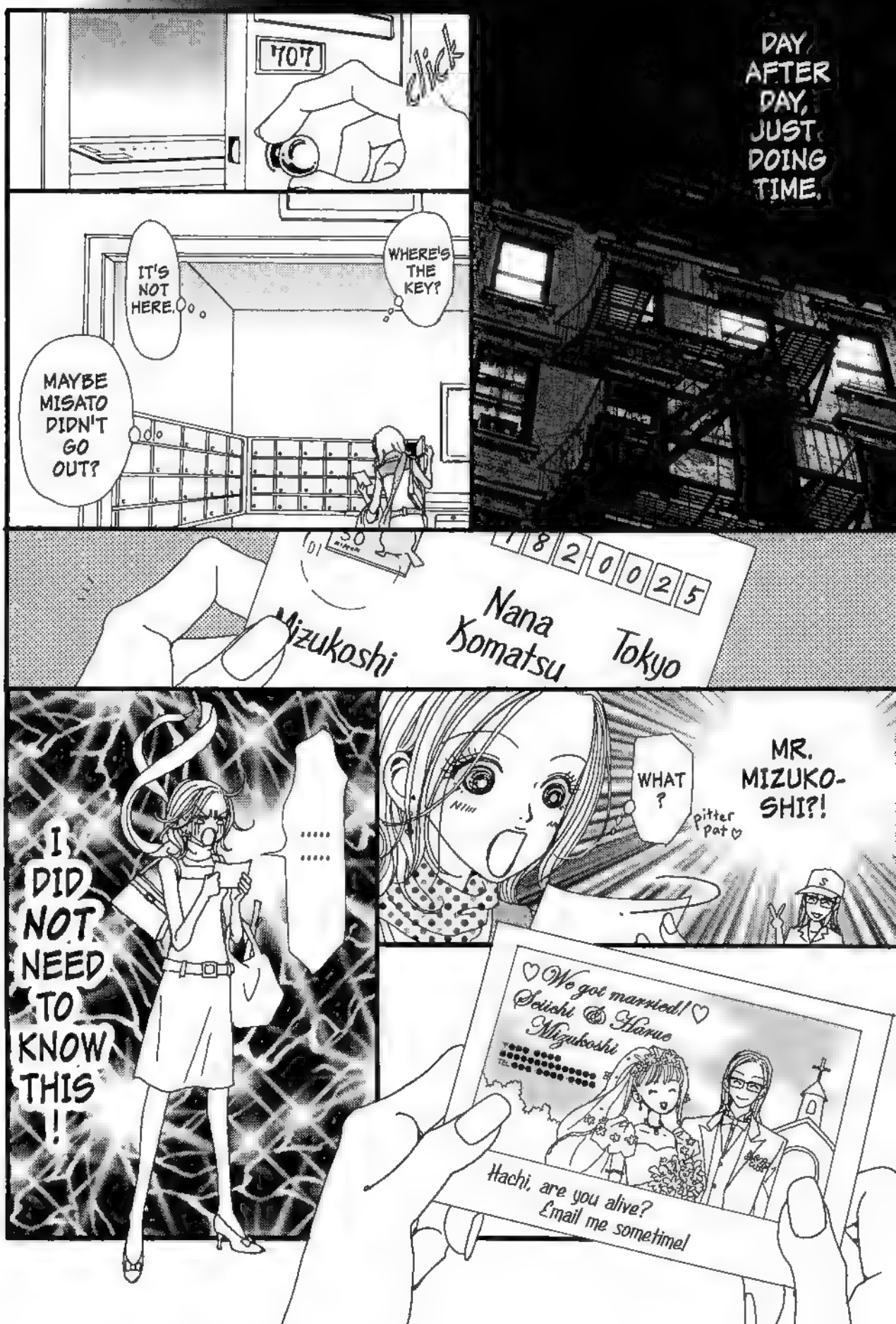

I DON'T WANT IT.
I DON'T WANT IT!
I TOLD YOU!
I CAME TO MAKE UP FOR LAST TIME!
WELL THEN...
YOU CAN MAKE IT UP TO ME...
...BY TAKING THIS.

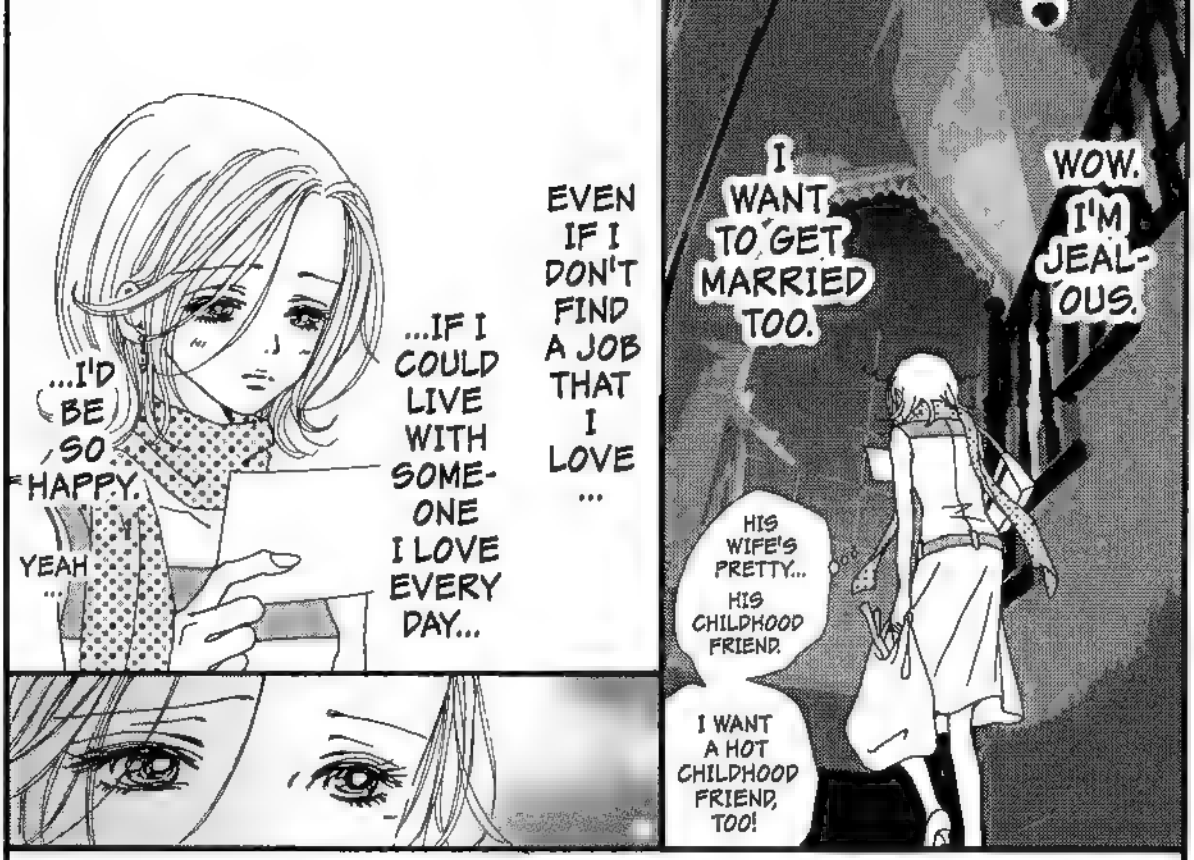
VIVIENNE
10000
万円

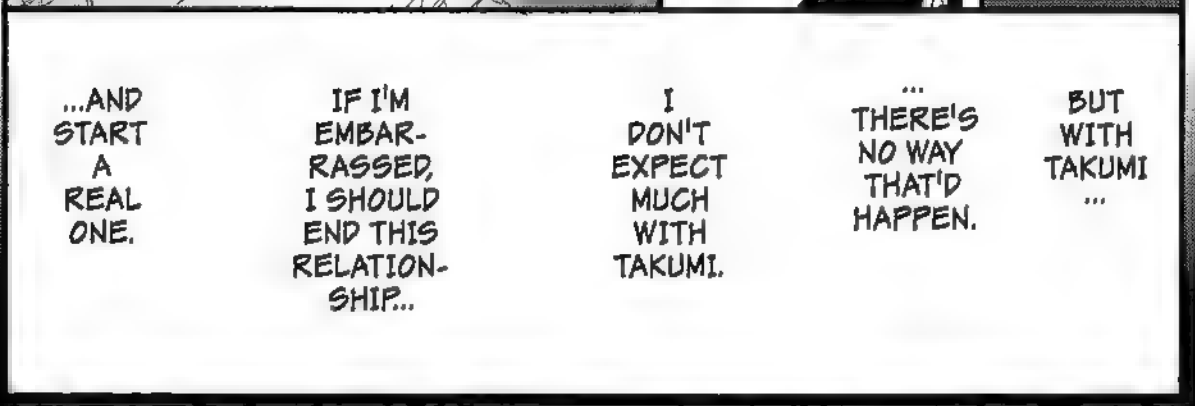

slam
OOOH...
SORRY, TAKE ...
I WAS OUT COLD.
DAMN, AM I LATE?
I FIGURED AS MUCH, SO I CAME EARLY.
I BROUGHT YOUR CLOTHES.
OH... THANKS.
I'LL LEAVE THEM HERE. GET READY.
PLUNK
BOTHER YOU'RE
PANTHERE

I'LL GO CHECK REIRA OUT FIRST.
HUH?
REIRA STAYED HERE TOO?
WHY?
creak
YOU FEEL SICK?
GOT A COLD?
NOOO.
I WAS JUST CAR SICK.

NRG
DON'T TREAT ME LIKE I'M A THING!
ARE YOU WORRIED?
YOU USUALLY LIKE LONG DRIVES.
YOU NEVER GET CAR SICK.
SLAM
IT'D SUCK FOR EVERYONE. GET A TUNE-UP.
OUR BAND CAN'T FUNCTION IF YOU'RE BROKEN.
OF COURSE.
MY ASSIGN-MENT THAT DAY WAS TO SELL MILK AT A SUPER-MARKET.
GEEZ.
Sigh
I'LL DRINK IT MYSELF.
POP
.....
IT WAS JUST A META-PHOR.
HOW LONG AM I GOING TO KEEP THIS UP?
JUST TRY IT!
IT'S DELI-CIOUS MILK, FRESH FROM HOKKAIDO!


DAY AFTER DAY, JUST DOING TIME.
1707
click
WHERE'S THE KEY?
IT'S NOT HERE.
MAYBE MISATO DIDN'T GO OUT?
1820025
Nana Komatsu
Tokyo
Mizukoshi
I DID NOT NEED TO KNOW THIS!
.....
.....
WHAT?
pitter pat
MR. MIZUKO-SHI?!
♡We got married!♡
Seiichi & Haruo
Mizukoshi
Hachi, are you alive?
Email me sometime!


EVEN IF I DON'T FIND A JOB THAT I LOVE ...
...IF I COULD LIVE WITH SOMEONE I LOVE EVERY DAY...
...I'D BE SO HAPPY.
YEAH ...
I WANT TO GET MARRIED TOO.
WOW. I'M JEALOUS.
HIS WIFE'S PRETTY...
HIS CHILDHOOD FRIEND.
I WANT A HOT CHILDHOOD FRIEND, TOO!


...AND START A REAL ONE.
IF I'M EMBARRASSED, I SHOULD END THIS RELATIONSHIP...
I DON'T EXPECT MUCH WITH TAKUMI.
... THERE'S NO WAY THAT'D HAPPEN.
BUT WITH TAKUMI ...

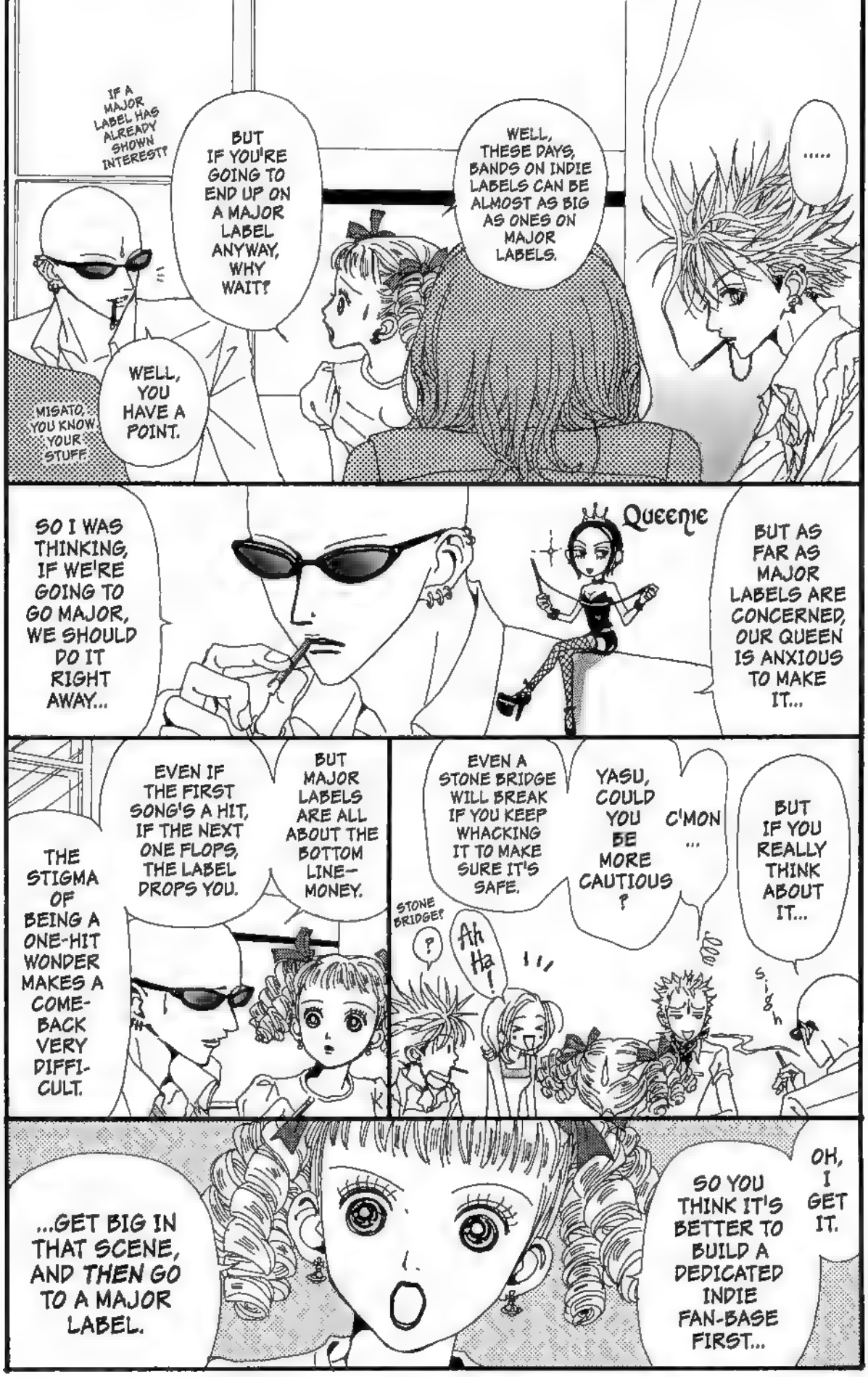
WHAT IF I DIE ALONE? WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHAT IF I GROW OLD WITHOUT ANYTHING TO LIVE FOR?
...I CAN LOVE FOR LIFE?
... FIND SOMEONE...
BUT CAN A GIRL LIKE ME...

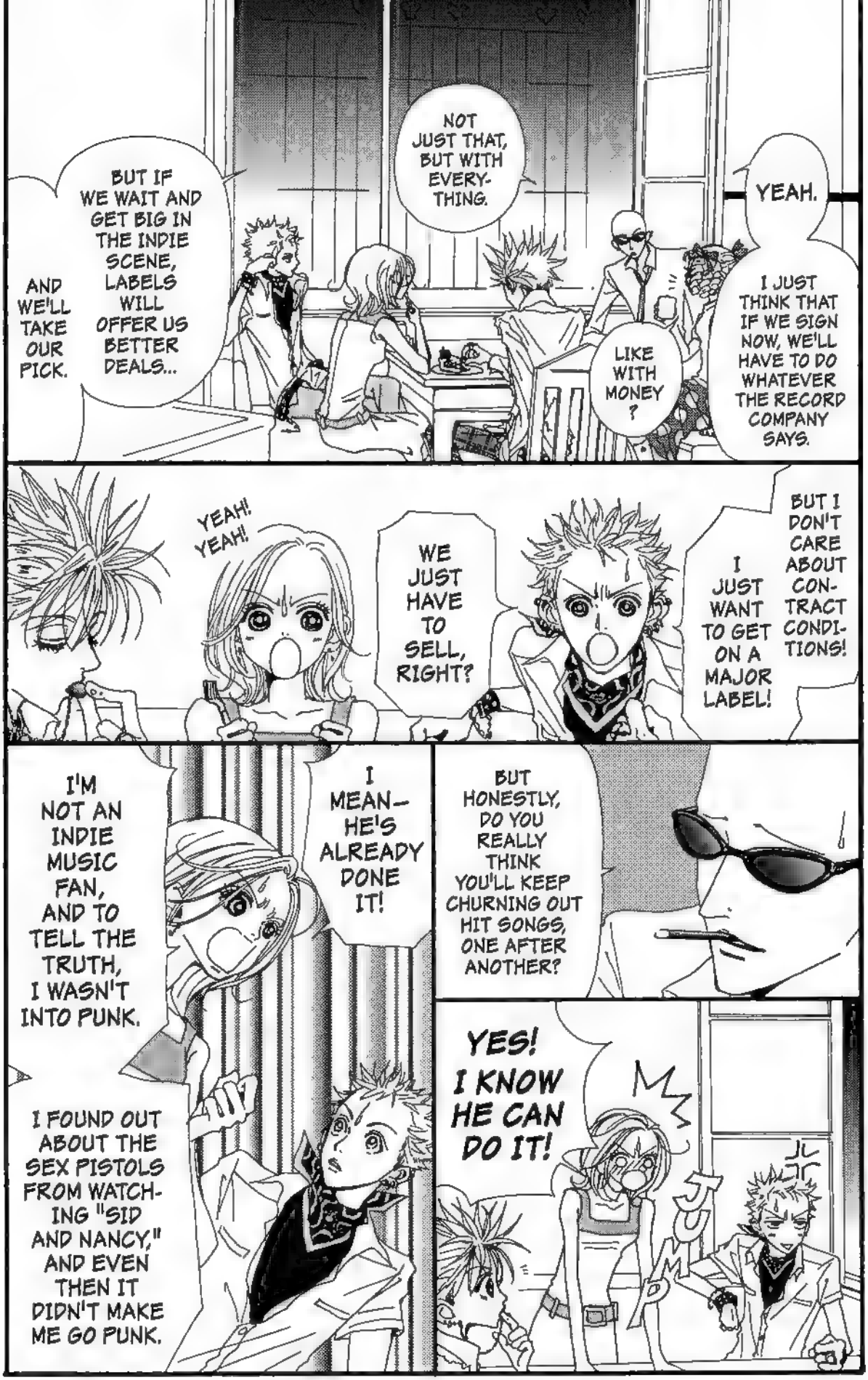
IT'S A PARTY!
HUH?
IN HONOR OF BLAST GETTING SIGNED!
NOW EVERY-ONE'S HERE!
WEL-COME HOME, HACHI-KO!
HACHI!!!!♡
LIKE WHAT?
VAR-IOUS THINGS.
WELL, WE HAVEN'T DECIDED YET...
SO WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

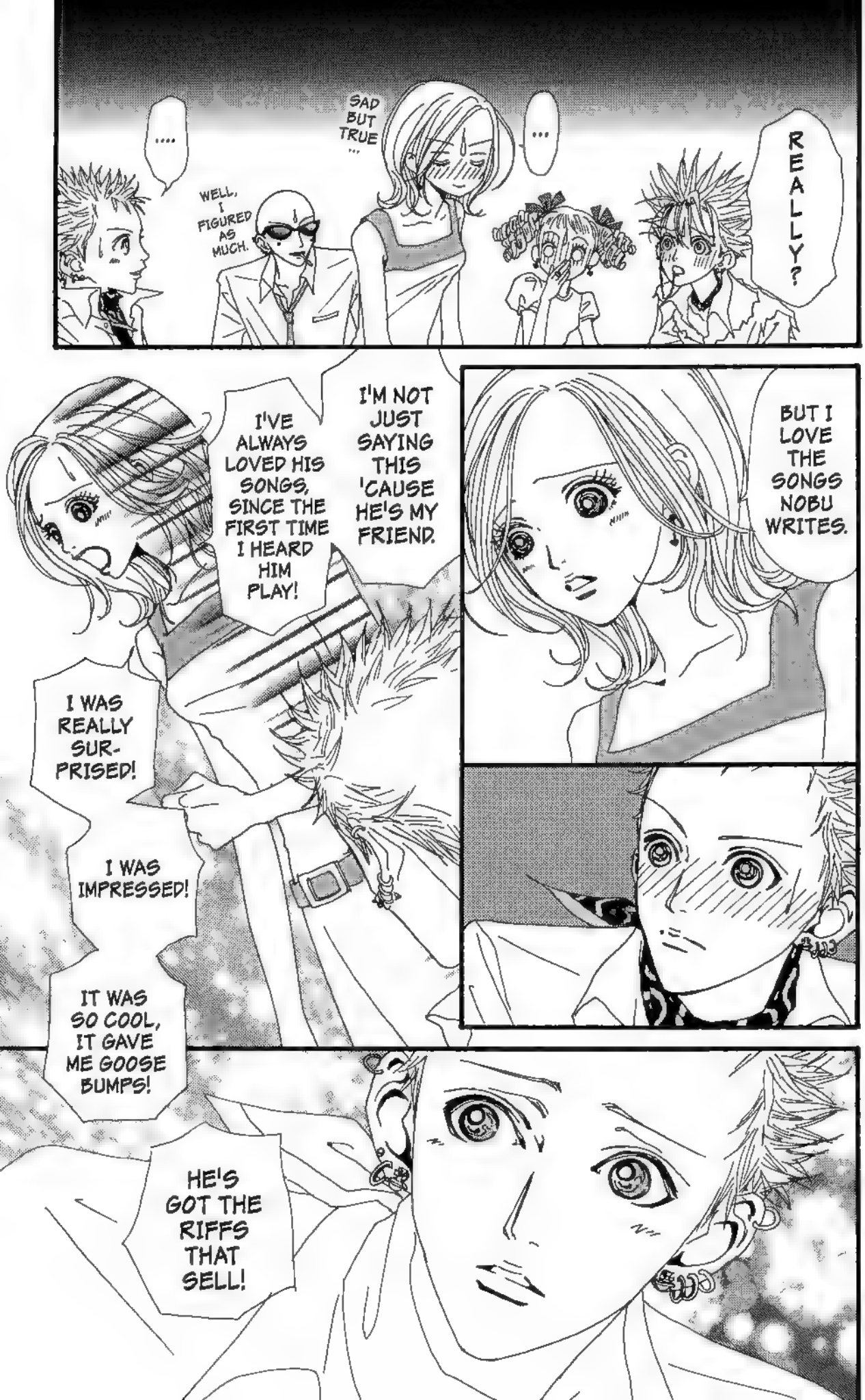
POUNCE
THE CAKE WAS AMAZ-ING!
I'M SO SORRY.

I'LL NEVER BE A MEMBER OF BLAST ...
I CAN'T PLAY GUITAR OR KEY-BOARD ...
Lay off, man!
Hey— SHIN!
SHE'S CRYING!
MAKE ME YOUR BRIDE!
OH, SHIN! ♡

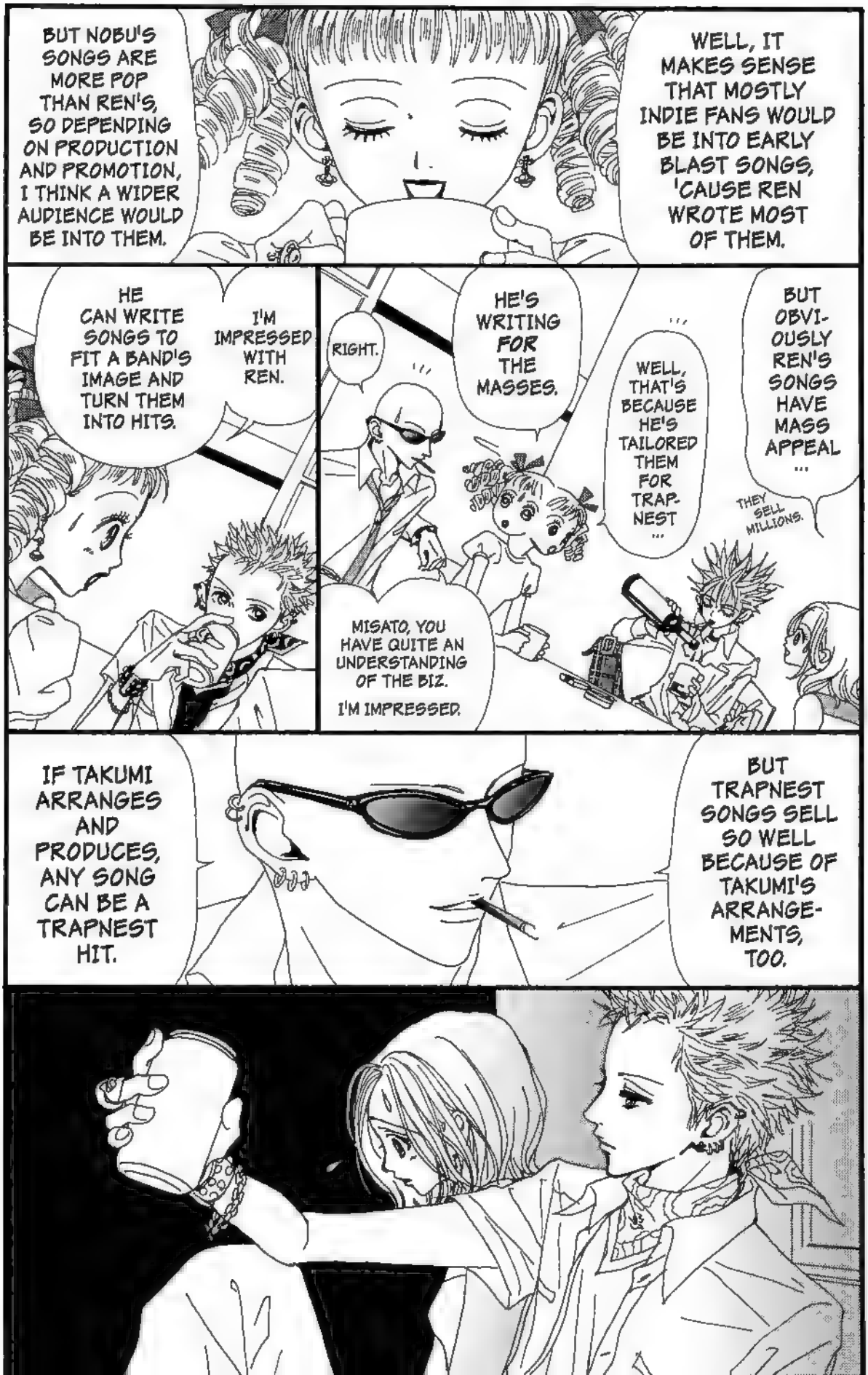
BUT MY LOVE FOR THESE GUYS ...
...AND THEIR MUSIC ...
...IS SOME-THING SPECIAL.
I WILL ...
... ALWAYS CHERISH THAT.
SO FOR A STRAIGHT-FORWARD PUNK BAND LIKE US...
...I THINK IT MIGHT BE BETTER FOR US...
...TO DEVELOP A STRONG FAN BASE BY GOING TO AN INDIE LABEL ...
... INSTEAD OF SIGNING TO A MAJOR LABEL AND HOPING FOR A HIT ON THEIR TERMS.
BUT WHY ?
....


IF A MAJOR LABEL HAS ALREADY SHOWN INTEREST?
BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO END UP ON A MAJOR LABEL ANYWAY, WHY WAIT?
WELL, THESE DAYS, BANDS ON INDIE LABELS CAN BE ALMOST AS BIG AS ONES ON MAJOR LABELS.
.....
MISATO... YOU KNOW YOUR STUFF.
WELL, YOU HAVE A POINT.
SO I WAS THINKING, IF WE'RE GOING TO GO MAJOR, WE SHOULD DO IT RIGHT AWAY...
Queenie
BUT AS FAR AS MAJOR LABELS ARE CONCERNED, OUR QUEEN IS ANXIOUS TO MAKE IT...
THE STIGMA OF BEING A ONE-HIT WONDER MAKES A COME-BACK VERY DIFFI-CULT.
EVEN IF THE FIRST SONG'S A HIT, IF THE NEXT ONE FLOPS, THE LABEL DROPS YOU.
BUT MAJOR LABELS ARE ALL ABOUT THE BOTTOM LINE— MONEY.
EVEN A STONE BRIDGE WILL BREAK IF YOU KEEP WHACKING IT TO MAKE SURE IT'S SAFE.
YASU, COULD YOU BE MORE CAUTIOUS?
C'MON...
BUT IF YOU REALLY THINK ABOUT IT...
STONE BRIDGE?
Ah Ha!
sigh
...GET BIG IN THAT SCENE, AND THEN GO TO A MAJOR LABEL.
SO YOU THINK IT'S BETTER TO BUILD A DEDICATED INDIE FAN-BASE FIRST...
OH, I GET IT.


BUT IF WE WAIT AND GET BIG IN THE INDIE SCENE, LABELS WILL OFFER US BETTER DEALS...
AND WE'LL TAKE OUR PICK.
NOT JUST THAT, BUT WITH EVERY-THING.
LIKE WITH MONEY?
YEAH.
I JUST THINK THAT IF WE SIGN NOW, WE'LL HAVE TO DO WHATEVER THE RECORD COMPANY SAYS.
YEAH! YEAH!
WE JUST HAVE TO SELL, RIGHT?
I JUST WANT TO GET ON A MAJOR LABEL!
BUT I DON'T CARE ABOUT CON-TRACT CONDI-TIONS!
I'M NOT AN INDIE MUSIC FAN, AND TO TELL THE TRUTH, I WASN'T INTO PUNK.
I FOUND OUT ABOUT THE SEX PISTOLS FROM WATCH-ING "SID AND NANCY," AND EVEN THEN IT DIDN'T MAKE ME GO PUNK.
I MEAN— HE'S ALREADY DONE IT!
BUT HONESTLY, DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU'LL KEEP CHURNING OUT HIT SONGS, ONE AFTER ANOTHER?
YES! I KNOW HE CAN DO IT!
JUMP


....
WELL, I FIGURED AS MUCH.
SAD BUT TRUE...
...
REALLY?
I'M NOT JUST SAYING THIS 'CAUSE HE'S MY FRIEND.
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED HIS SONGS, SINCE THE FIRST TIME I HEARD HIM PLAY!
BUT I LOVE THE SONGS NOBU WRITES.
I WAS REALLY SUR-PRISED!
I WAS IMPRESSED!
IT WAS SO COOL, IT GAVE ME GOOSE BUMPS!
HE'S GOT THE RIFFS THAT SELL!

UM, HACHI ...
IT'S ALL RIGHT ...
I UNDER-STAND ...
BUT THANKS.
I CAN DEAL WITH THIS.
.....
BUT...
I'M SO HAPPY, I COULD CRY.
BLUSH
.....
I AGREE THAT NOBU CAN WRITE SONGS THAT'D BE MAJOR LABEL HITS.
REALLY ?


BUT NOBU'S SONGS ARE MORE POP THAN REN'S, SO DEPENDING ON PRODUCTION AND PROMOTION, I THINK A WIDER AUDIENCE WOULD BE INTO THEM.
WELL, IT MAKES SENSE THAT MOSTLY INDIE FANS WOULD BE INTO EARLY BLAST SONGS, 'CAUSE REN WROTE MOST OF THEM.
I'M IMPRESSED WITH REN.
HE CAN WRITE SONGS TO FIT A BAND'S IMAGE AND TURN THEM INTO HITS.
RIGHT.
HE'S WRITING FOR THE MASSES.
WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE HE'S TAILORED THEM FOR TRAP-NEST ...
BUT OBVI-OUSLY REN'S SONGS HAVE MASS APPEAL ...
THEY SELL MILLIONS.
MISATO, YOU HAVE QUITE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE BIZ.
I'M IMPRESSED.
IF TAKUMI ARRANGES AND PRODUCES, ANY SONG CAN BE A TRAPNEST HIT.
BUT TRAPNEST SONGS SELL SO WELL BECAUSE OF TAKUMI'S ARRANGE-MENTS, TOO.

HE KNOWS THEIR STRENGTHS AND WEAK-NESSES.
WELL, NOW TAKUMI GETS INPUT FROM THE OTHERS, TOO.
IN THE OLD DAYS, TAKUMI WROTE ALL THE SONGS, AND THE BAND WAS JUST HIS ONE-MAN SHOW.
DON'T MOST BANDS ARRANGE THEIR SONGS TOGETHER?
YEAH, TOTALLY ...
I WOULDN'T LIKE BEING TOLD HOW TO PLAY.
HOW DOES REN FEEL ABOUT TAKUMI MESSING WITH HIS SONGS SO MUCH?
YEAH, BUT I HAVE TO WONDER ...
YOU REALLY KNOW THE DETAILS.
NAOKI'S THEIR SECOND DRUMMER, AND REN'S THE FOURTH GUITARIST.
THAT'S WHY THERE WAS A MUTINY, RIGHT?
THEY WENT THROUGH BAND MEMBERS LIKE SPINAL TAP DRUMMERS!
WORLD DOMINA-TION?!
AND WHAT VISION IS THAT?!
SO KNOWING THAT, REN STILL JOINED TRAPNEST?
WERE THEY FRIENDS?
....
I SURE WOULDN'T.
THAT'S NOT A BAND.
WHO WOULD WANT TO BE IN A BAND LIKE THAT?
REN BELIEVED IN TAKUMI'S VISION.
YEAH.

"ONLY I CAN CREATE THE MUSIC THAT SETS THE STAGE ...
...FOR THE POWER AND BEAUTY OF REIRA'S VOICE."
WOW!
DAMN ...
WELL, THAT'S PRETTY INTENSE.
.....
I KNOW.

NOW HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT, TOO?!
GIRL-FRIEND?
BUT WEREN'T YOU JEALOUS THAT HE SAID THAT ABOUT YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
THAT'S QUITE A BOND.
SHOULDN'T I BE JEALOUS?
MAYBE HE'S NOT SO COOL.
MAYBE THEY'RE A COUPLE?!
KNOWING TAKUMI...
JEAL-OUS? ME?
I DO MY HOMEWORK!
IT'S WHAT KEEPS ME GOING!
THERE'S ALMOST NOTHING ABOUT MY HOMETOWN BANDS THAT I DON'T KNOW.
WOW, MISATO.
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THAT.
...
I KNOW.
OKAY... BUT WE BROKE UP A LONG—
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
I SHOULD BE JEALOUS, BUT ACTUALLY, I THINK THEY'D BE A GOOD COUPLE.
YOU ALWAYS CHANGE THE SUBJECT WHEN IT'S ABOUT YOU.
BUT YASU...
YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT, SORRY.
WE'VE GOT TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH OUR BAND, INSTEAD OF GOSSIPING ABOUT TRAPNEST.
WE'RE REALLY OFF ON A TANGENT HERE.
SHE'S WORKING TONIGHT, SO SHE MIGHT NOT COME HOME.
OH...
SO WHEN'S NANA COMING HOME?
I CAN'T BELIEVE I DID THAT!
OMIGOD! YOU'RE RIGHT!
BUT WHAT'S THE POINT OF DISCUSSING THIS WHEN NANA'S NOT HERE?

BUT ...
...I HAVEN'T SEEN HER IN DAYS.
I SAW HER ON STAGE YESTERDAY... BUT THAT'S JUST WATCHING HER.
HEY, HACHI ...
WILL YOU GO BUY SOME WINE? WE'RE OUT.
NOBU CAN GO WITH YOU... FOR YOUR SAFETY, OF COURSE.
Slump
OH NO... NANA'S NOT COMING?
SHIN— YOU GO BY YOUR-SELF!
....
I LOOK TOO YOUNG. THEY WON'T SELL ME ANYTHING.
WOULDN'T I LOOK GOOD IN A SCHOOL UNIFORM?
.....
IT'S ALL RIGHT, HACHI. I'LL GO GET SOME.
DON'T COME WITH ME.
GRAB SOME SAKE WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.
BAD IDEA!
NOBU LOOKS UNDER-AGE TOO!
BUT HACHI, YOU'RE SO HOT, THEY'D NEVER CARD YOU.
SO JUST GO!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

WHAT DO WE TALK ABOUT ALONE, JUST THE TWO OF US?
....
WHY'D SHE COME?
JUMP
SPIN
JUMP JUMP JUMP JUMP
UM...
WHY'RE YOU WALKING SO FAR BEHIND ME?
JUST WALK IN FRONT OF ME.
I'LL WORRY IF I CAN'T SEE YOU.
OH!
OKAY.
.....

.....
I CAN'T WALK IN FRONT OF YOU!
IT MAKES ME NER-VOUS!
HUH ?
SORRY.
BUT ...
CAN'T WE WALK SIDE-BY-SIDE?
OF COURSE, IF IT'S POSSIBLE.
THANK YOU, NOBU!
FOR WHAT ?!
WELL I...
... THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER TALK TO ME AGAIN ...
SO ...
I'M GLAD ...
...YOU CAME OVER TONIGHT.

...JUST A HORRIBLE GIRL!
REALLY ... I'M ... I DID SO.
I'M SO SORRY.
...I'LL TALK TO YOU.
I MEAN... OF COURSE ...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
WHAT ARE YOU APOLOGIZING ABOUT?
YOU'VE GOT SOME UNREALISTIC IDEAS ABOUT WOMEN.
IF YOU SAW WHO I REALLY WAS, YOU WOULDN'T LIKE ME!
NOBU, STOP IDEALIZING ME!
I'M SERIOUS!
HOW HORRIBLE?
A HORRIBLE GIRL?!
Ba Ha Ha Ha!

IF YOU KNEW WHAT I WAS REALLY LIKE, YOU'D BE DISAP-POINTED.
HACHI AND HER BOYFRIEND JUST BROKE UP. MAYBE SHE'S LONELY?
MAYBE THAT'S WHAT I NEED.
THEN PLEASE, LET ME DOWN.

...GIVE YOU UP.
I DON'T KNOW HOW ELSE I CAN...
OTHER-WISE...

HEY YASU...
Blast

YOU REALLY WEREN'T JEALOUS ABOUT TAKUMI'S VISION?
ABOUT REIRA.
WHAT STORY ?
...FOR FUTURE REFER-ENCE.
TELL THE STORY AGAIN ...
Scrub scrub

...AND HIS CONFIDENT, RECKLESS PERSONALITY.
I WAS JEALOUS OF TAKUMI'S SKILLS ...
....
NO WAY!
You were?!
I WAS TOTALLY JEALOUS.
OH NO—
REIRA WAS IN LOVE WITH TAKUMI...
YASUU!
I WAS A YEAR OLDER THAN HER, SO I WAS LIKE AN OLDER BROTHER.
FOR SOME REASON, REIRA WAS ATTACHED TO ME.
... BEFORE WE STARTED GOING OUT.

TAKUMI WAS A TOTAL WOMANIZER BACK THEN...
...BUT HE NEVER GOT WITH REIRA.
I MEAN, SHE WAS IMPORTANT TO HIM...
...BUT ONLY AS HIS DIVA.
I JUST LOVE TO SING.
I'D RATHER BE A SINGING MACHINE...
...AND FEEL NOTHING...
NO DESIRE, NO JEALOUSY.
A HIGH-PERFOR-MANCE MACHINE THAT NEVER BREAKS.
BUT IF I THREW OUT MY FEELINGS, MY SINGING WOULD GO DOWN TOO.
IT'S HARD TO BE HUMAN.
I EMPA-THIZED WITH HER.

LOOKING BACK, IT WAS JUST PETTY JEALOUSY.
...IT BECAME MORE APPARENT THAT I COULDN'T WIN AGAINST TAKUMI.
BUT ONCE WE STARTED GOING OUT...
Ah Ha Ha!
YOU CON-VINCED HER!
...I CONVINCED HER TO FORGET HIM, AND GO OUT WITH ME.
SO THEN ...
...AND COULDN'T DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO MOVE TO TOKYO.
...WHO WAS WORRIED ABOUT BAND IN-FIGHT-ING...
I DIDN'T WANT TO LISTEN TO REIRA ...
BUT YASU, YOU COULD BE THERE FOR HER NOW.
OF COURSE THINGS DIDN'T WORK OUT.
...WHEN SHE NEEDED ME MOST.
I WASN'T THERE FOR HER...

I HAVE MY HANDS FULL TAKING CARE OF YOU GUYS!
SHE'S A BIG GIRL.
OH, SHE DOESN'T NEED ME ANYMORE.
NOW I HAVE TO...
...SAY GOOD-BYE TO TAKUMI.
...I HAVE TO TEAR MYSELF AWAY FROM THESE ARMS.
IF I CAN'T DO THAT ...

...I'LL REALLY BE HAPPY.
AND THIS TIME ...
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
RIGHT?
I CAN DO IT...
I CAN SAY IT.
BECAUSE THESE ARMS HOLD...
...THE ENTIRE FUTURE THAT I WANT.

I CAN JUST FEEL IT.
WHERE'S HACHI ?
SHE WENT OUT TO GET SOME BOOZE.
WHAT THE HELL ?!
I MISSED HER AGAIN?
I MADE THE CAB PEDAL TO THE METAL.
I EVEN BROUGHT HER A BEEF JERKY SOUVENIR.
I'M SURE SHE'LL BE BACK SOON.
I HAVE A FEELING IT MIGHT BE A WHILE.
....
'CAUSE I SENT HER OUT WITH NOBU!♡
AND WHY'S THAT ?
REALLY?!
GOOD JOB, SHIN!
WAY TO GO FOR IT, NOBUO!
I BET ¥10,000 THEY DO IT.
I BET ¥10,000 THEY DON'T.
WHAT?
I THOUGHT SHE HAD A BOYFRIEND..
I BET ¥100 HE'S DONE BEFORE HE CAN EVEN GET STARTED!
EEE!!♡
YOU'RE CHEAP.

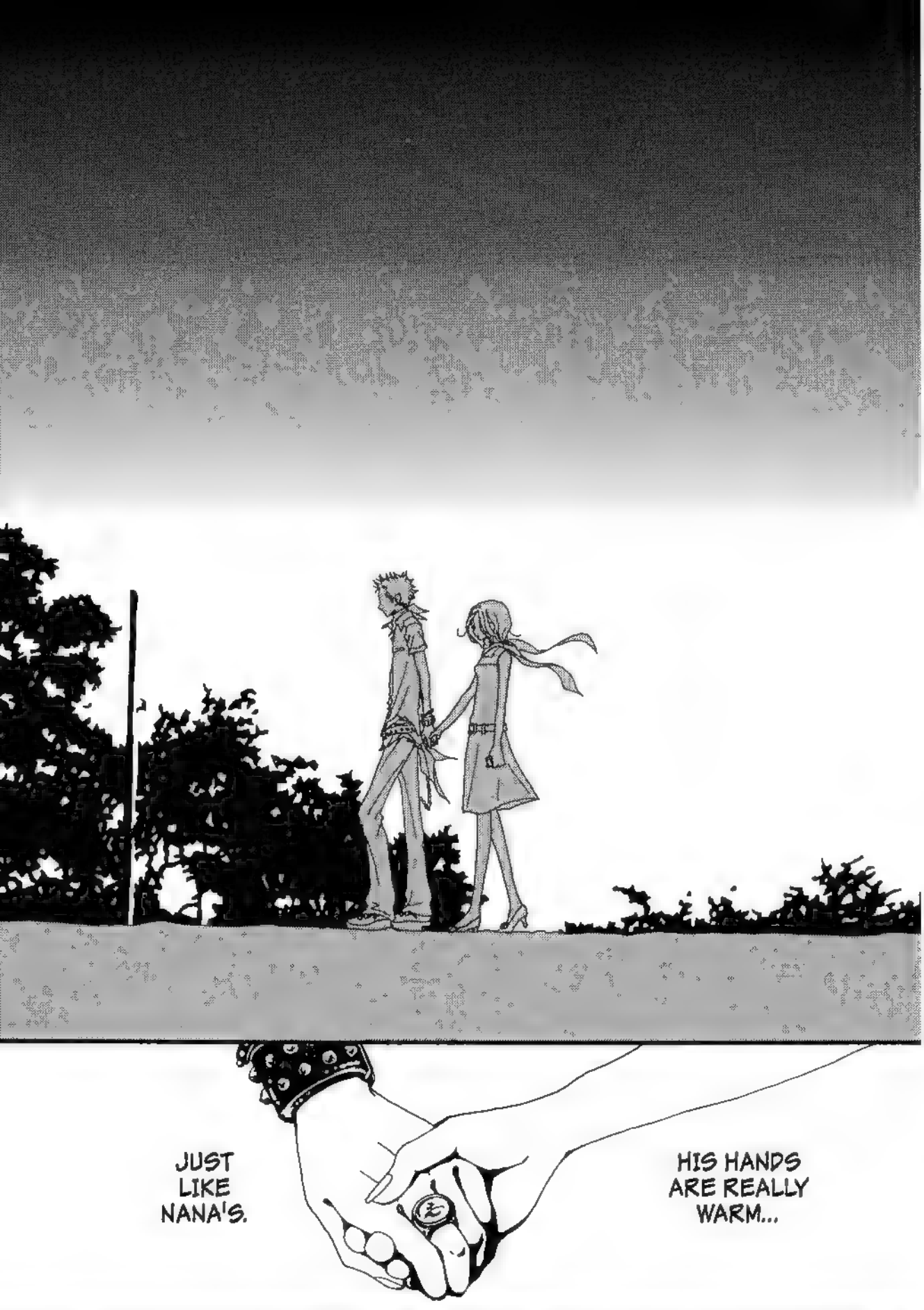
HEY NANA...
THE FEELINGS I PROFESSED THAT NIGHT...
JUST DON'T EVER FORGET

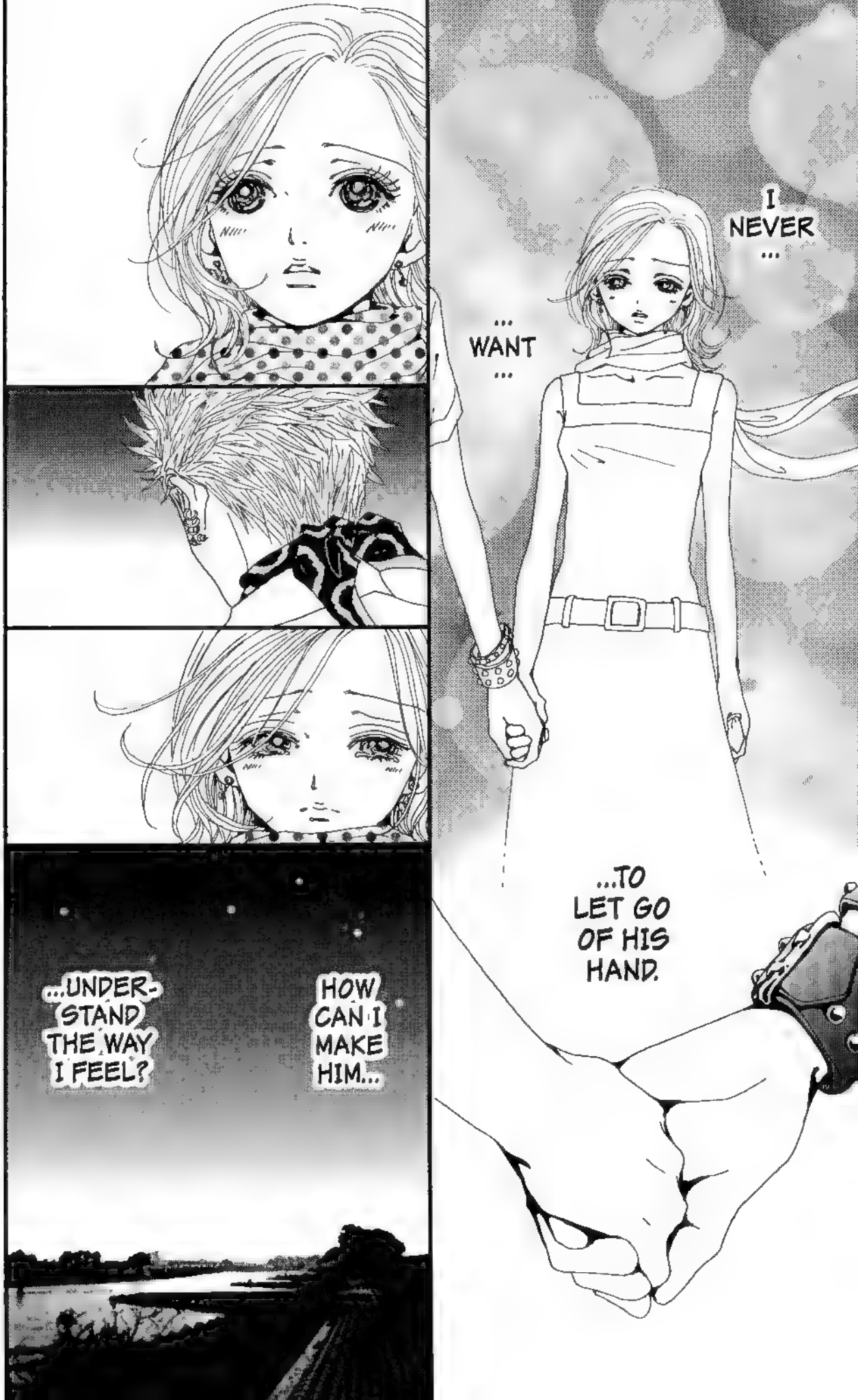
NANA™

ナナ

[Chapter 23]

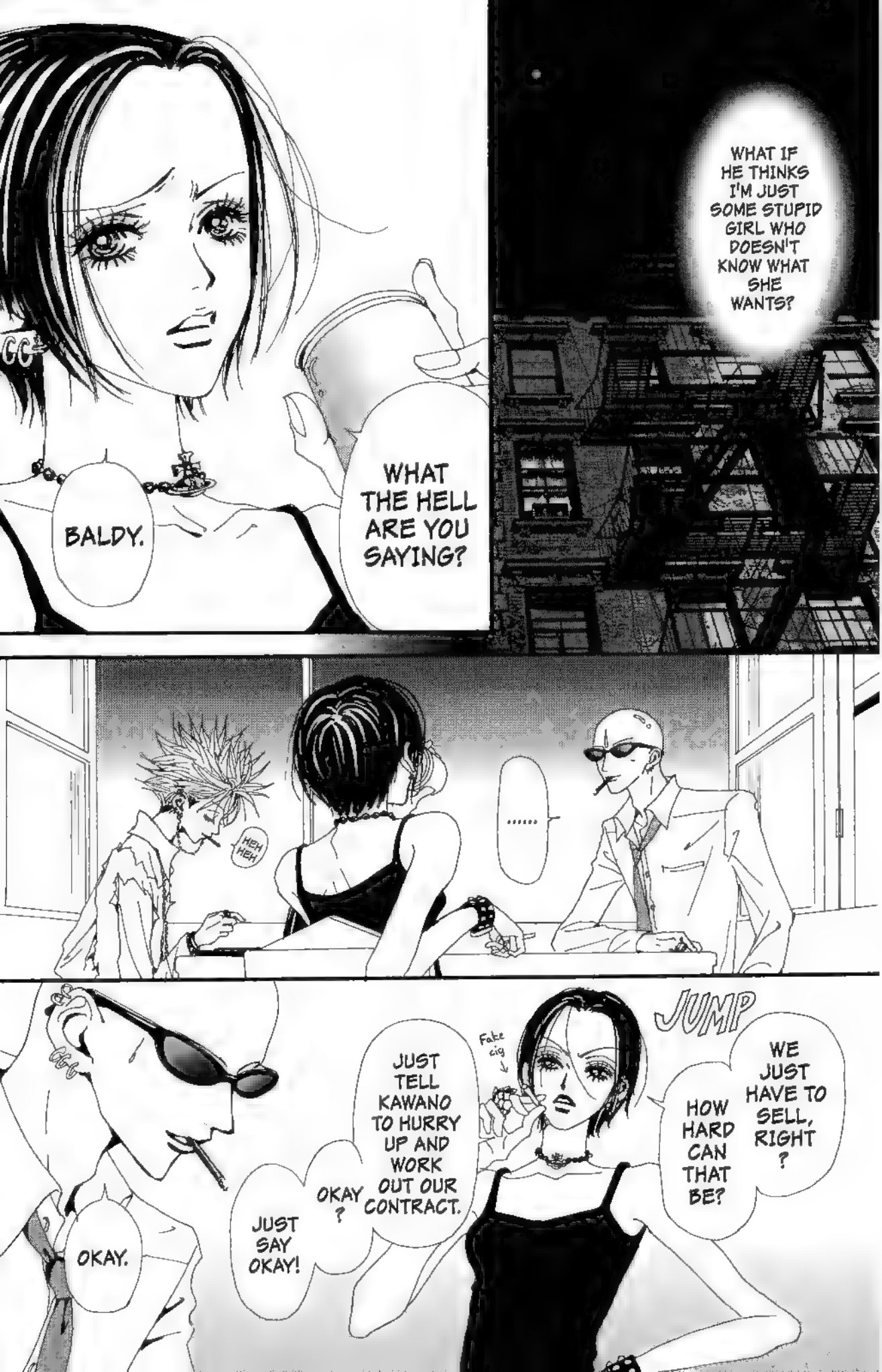
BUT WE DIDN'T SAY A WORD.
ALL THE WAY TO THE [redacted]
...AND HELD HANDS
WE KISSED


JUST LIKE NANA'S.
HIS HANDS ARE REALLY WARM...


I NEVER ...
... WANT ...
...TO LET GO OF HIS HAND.
HOW CAN I MAKE HIM...
...UNDER-STAND THE WAY I FEEL?

I'D BEEN HOLDING BACK FOR A WHILE.
I'VE GIVEN NOBU NO REASON TO TRUST ME AT THIS POINT.
...WHEN NOBU WAS WATCH-ING.
I DIDN'T TURN TAKUMI AWAY...
ACTU-ALLY...
BUT...
I WANTED TO TOUCH HIM.
I WANTED TO BE NOBU'S GIRLFRIEND.
... SECRETLY, WHILE WALKING ALONG THE RIVER.
I WAS WAITING FOR THE DAY HE'D HOLD ME...

SO WHAT ...
I'M AFRAID TO ASK.
AND WHAT ARE YOU THINKING NOW?
...DOES THIS ALL MEAN?
WHAT DO I DO IF HE REALLY DOESN'T BELIEVE IN ME ANY-MORE?
BUT THEN...
...AWAY NOW, IF YOU WANT.
...TAKE ME...
YOU CAN...

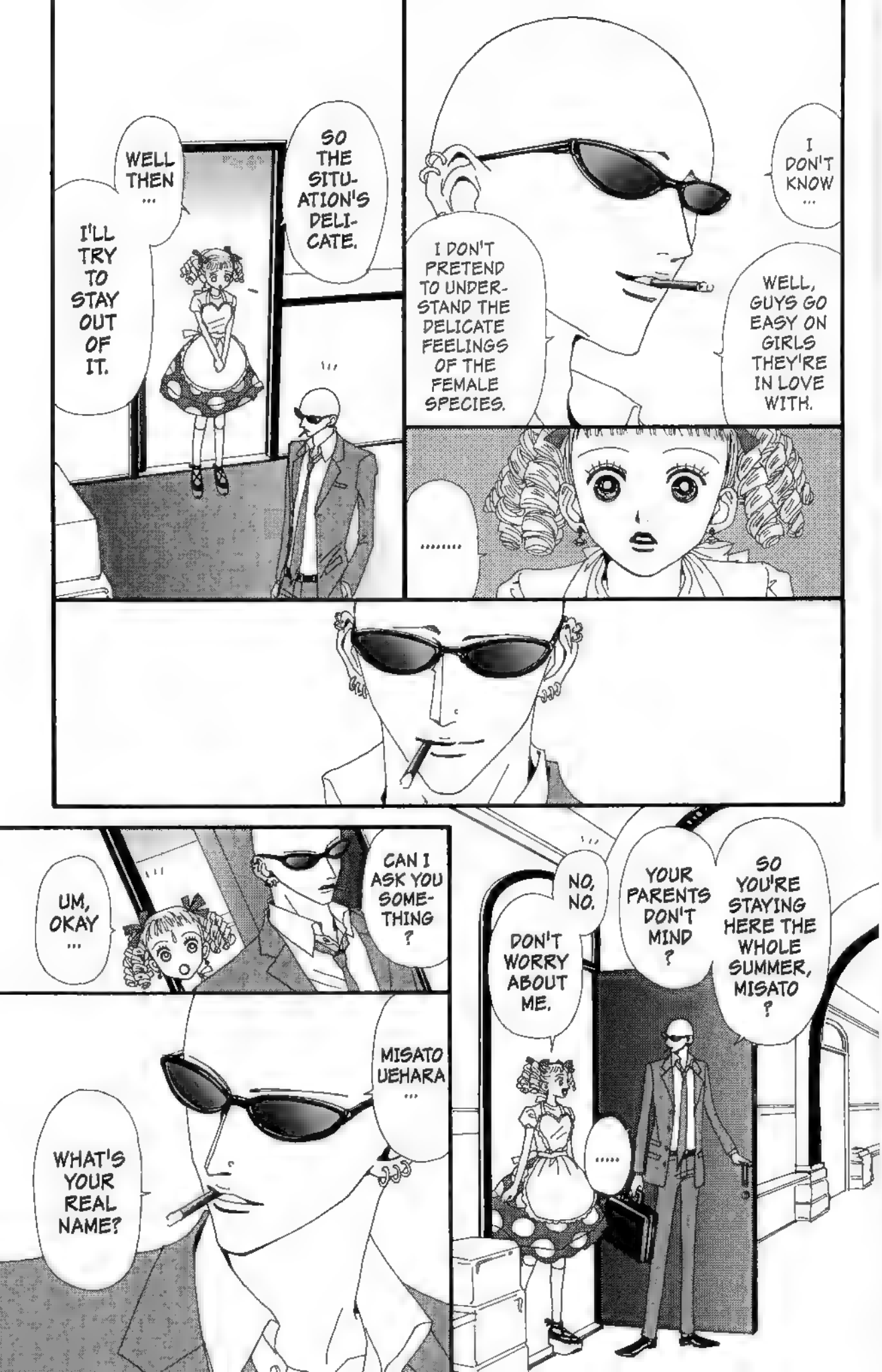

WHAT IF HE THINKS I'M JUST SOME STUPID GIRL WHO DOESN'T KNOW WHAT SHE WANTS?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING?
BALDY.
HEH HEH
.....
JUMP
WE JUST HAVE TO SELL, RIGHT?
HOW HARD CAN THAT BE?
Fake cig
JUST TELL KAWANO TO HURRY UP AND WORK OUT OUR CONTRACT.
OKAY?
JUST SAY OKAY!
OKAY.

I WIN THE BET.
SHE'S NOT COMING BACK.
YOU'RE NOT WAITING FOR HACHIKO TO COME BACK?
WHAT?
I'M TAKING A BATH AND GOING TO BED.
GOD— I'M BEAT.
WHAT IF I GO BALD?
Creak
I GUESS I'LL BE A GOOD BOY AND GO TO MY FOLKS' TONIGHT.
WELL, IF I CAN'T CRASH AT NOBU'S PLACE...
SLAM
beep
BUT DOESN'T SHE HAVE A BOYFRIEND?
YEAH, I'M FINE. I'M COMING OVER NOW.
SORRY I'M CALLING SO LATE.
I BET YOU'VE HAD A LONG DAY. ♡
OH— HELLO ... RYOKO?
FOLKS?

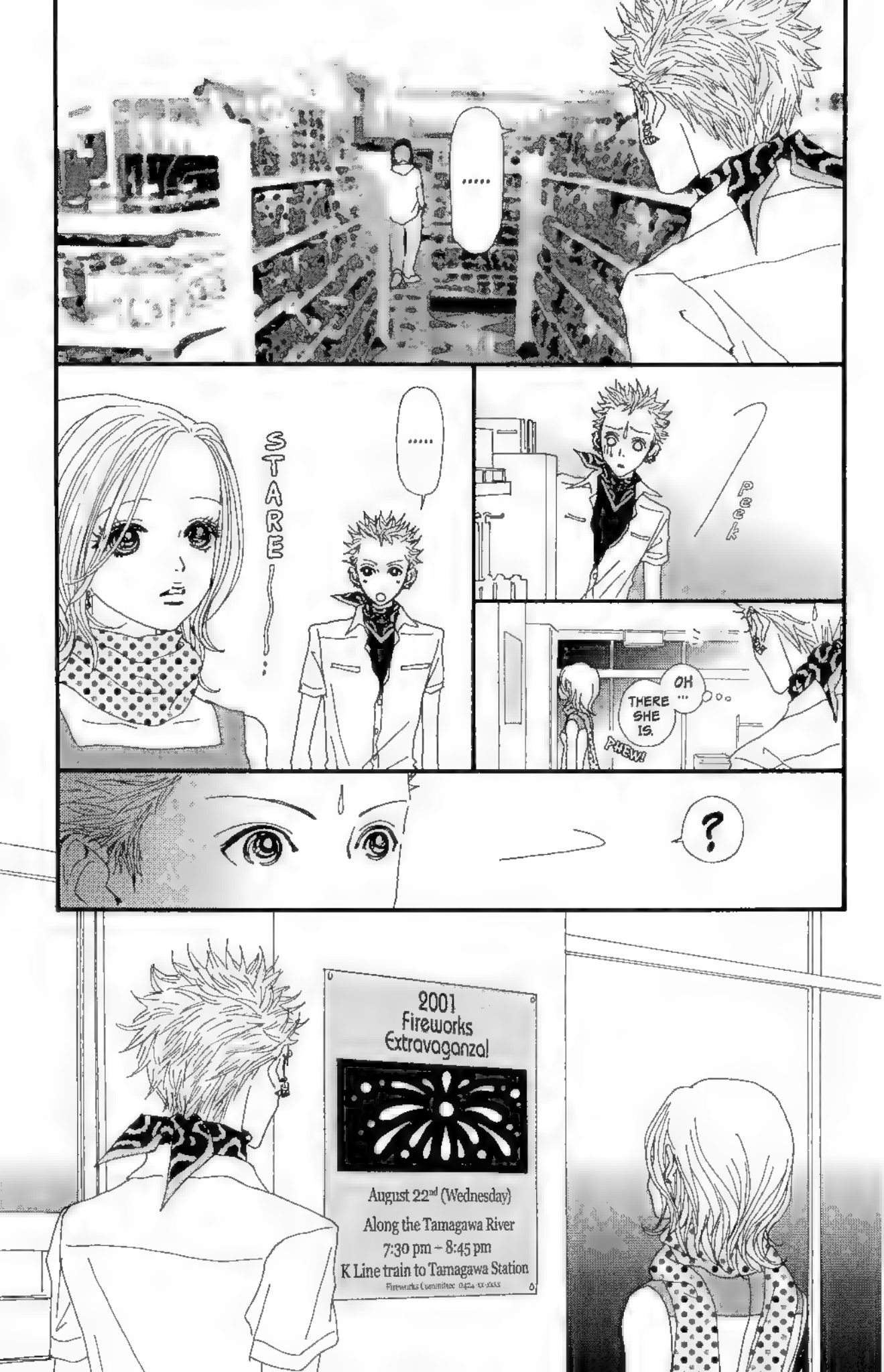
YEAH, RIGHT.
YOU DON'T HAVE A MOTHER, AND YOU WEREN'T RAISED BY SOME WOMAN.
Slam
NOT
SHE RAISED ME.
WHAT ABOUT THE WINE?
YOU'RE LEAVING?
WHAT?
SEE YOU LATER, MISATO.
CALL ME IF YOU GET LONELY.
WHO'S RYOKO?
WAIT— SHIN!

IF YOU DON'T WANT PEOPLE FINDING OUT WHO YOU ARE, AT LEAST BE SMART ENOUGH TO USE AN ALIAS.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?!
WE NEED YOUR LEGAL GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE ON THE RECORD CONTRACT.
YOU MIGHT ACT LIKE A KNOW-IT-ALL, BUT YOU'RE STILL A KID.
THEN STOP DOING THINGS THAT FREAK EVERYONE OUT.
IT'S FINE IF PEOPLE KNOW, BUT I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE SNOOPING AROUND.
I'M NOT EVER USING MY FULL NAME AGAIN!

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO, YASU.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM, I CAN GO GET HIS SIGNATURE.
click
MISATO...
I'M LEAV-ING, TOO.
WHAT?!
I'VE GOT SO MUCH WORK TO DO.
I'M SORRY.
OH, NO... IT'S OKAY...
SO YOU LOST THE BET, EVEN THOUGH HACHIKO HAS A BOY-FRIEND?
BUT DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE ADMIT-TING DEFEAT?
I MEAN... WHAT DOES NOBU THINK ABOUT THAT?


SO THE SITUATION'S DELICATE.
WELL THEN ...
I'LL TRY TO STAY OUT OF IT.
I DON'T KNOW ...
WELL, GUYS GO EASY ON GIRLS THEY'RE IN LOVE WITH.
I DON'T PRETEND TO UNDERSTAND THE DELICATE FEELINGS OF THE FEMALE SPECIES.
.....
SO YOU'RE STAYING HERE THE WHOLE SUMMER, MISATO ?
YOUR PARENTS DON'T MIND ?
NO, NO.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
.....
CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING ?
UM, OKAY ...
MISATO UEHARA ...
WHAT'S YOUR REAL NAME?

IT'S TOP SECRET. ♡
BUT I DON'T GET IT. SHE SEEMS LIKE SUCH A GOOD GIRL. WOMEN!
SCARY STUFF..
SO SHE REALLY DID USE A FAKE NAME.
WHAT A PLAIN NAME TO PICK...
clink


.....
.....
STARE!
peek
OH ...
THERE SHE IS.
PHEW!
?
2001
Fireworks
Extravaganza!
August 22nd (Wednesday)
Along the Tamagawa River
7:30 pm – 8:45 pm
K Line train to Tamagawa Station

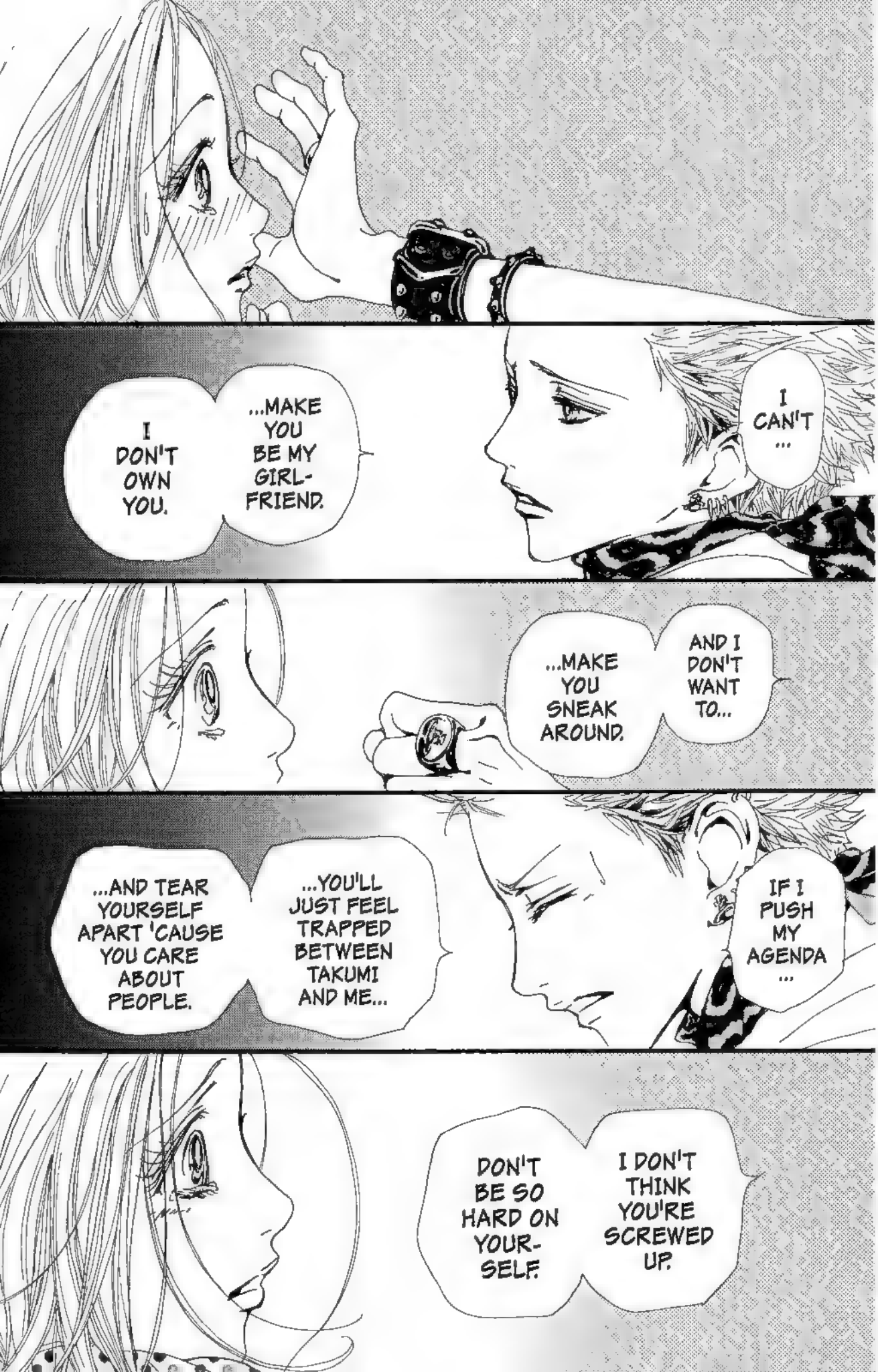
WANNA GO TOGETHER ?
THERE'S GONNA BE FIRE-WORKS!
OH!
JUMP
AND IT'S NEARBY...
.....
....
THANK YOU, GOOD-NIGHT.
I CAN CARRY ONE.
IT'S COOL.
I'M A BIG BOY!
WELL ACTU-ALLY, A SHORT ONE...
Platforms

ACTUALLY, CAN YOU CARRY ONE?
HOW'D YOU KNOW?
HUH?
KNOW WHAT?
WAIT... WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
YOU THINK?
WE'RE IN SYNC WITH EACH OTHER. ♡
BUT I DIDN'T, REALLY...
AT ALL.
WHAT I WAS THINK-ING...

ARE YOU SOME KIND OF NEW-AGE FREAK ?!
WHAT THE HELL ?!
MAYBE IT'S TELE-PATHY!
UM, HELLO ?!
.....
ARE YOU DISILLU-SIONED WITH ME?
IT'S MY FAULT...
ARE YOU JUST PLAYING SOME PUSH-PULL GAME TO LURE ME IN?
HEY...
OH!
ACTUALLY, I REALLY LIKE THAT YOU HAVE SUCH A WILD IMAGI-NATION.
NO... OH!
I'M A LITTLE OVER-WHELMED.
I'M SORRY! IT'S JUST THAT I...
SWIP
YOU'RE SUCH A NATURAL, IT WORKS!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "LURE"?
WHAT ?!
I'M NOT!
I'VE ALREADY BEEN BRAIN-WASHED!
THAT'S WHY YOU ALWAYS TALK ABOUT HIM!
ARE YOU AN AGENT OF THE DEMON LORD?
WOMEN!

NO! I SWEAR I'M NOT!
YOU TOLD ME YOU'RE A BAD GIRL.
SO HOW BAD ARE YOU?
I'M SORRY!
I PROMISE I'LL REALLY BREAK IT OFF WITH TAKUMI!
WHY'RE YOU BEING SO EMO?
I'M KID-DING!
PLEASE DON'T CRY!
I JUST ...
... DIDN'T WANT ...
...ANYONE TO KNOW ABOUT ME AND TAKUMI...

I THOUGHT A LOT ABOUT...
...HOW I SCREWED UP THINGS LIKE THAT.
THEN I COULD BE YOUR GIRL-FRIEND.
SO I COULD ... JUST PRETEND IT WASN'T HAPPEN-ING.
DO YOU HATE ME NOW?
UM...
DON'T LOOK AT ME WHILE YOU'RE CRYING!
I CAN'T HELP BUT SAY WHATEVER YOU WANT!
I'M SUCH A SUCKER.
NO. I'M GLAD ...
WHAT?
WHAT'S WRONG?


I CAN'T ...
...MAKE YOU BE MY GIRL-FRIEND.
I DON'T OWN YOU.
AND I DON'T WANT TO...
...MAKE YOU SNEAK AROUND.
IF I PUSH MY AGENDA ...
...YOU'LL JUST FEEL TRAPPED BETWEEN TAKUMI AND ME...
...AND TEAR YOURSELF APART 'CAUSE YOU CARE ABOUT PEOPLE.
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE SCREWED UP.
DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOUR-SELF.

AND NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, I JUST CAN'T COMPETE.
I'M SURE YOU CAN'T HELP IT THAT YOU'RE ATTRACTED TO TAKUMI.
I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO MAKE YOU HAPPY.
IF FOR ANY REASON ...
BUT EVEN SO.
I REALLY ...
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
...YOU BREAK THINGS OFF WITH TAKUMI AND GO OUT WITH ME...

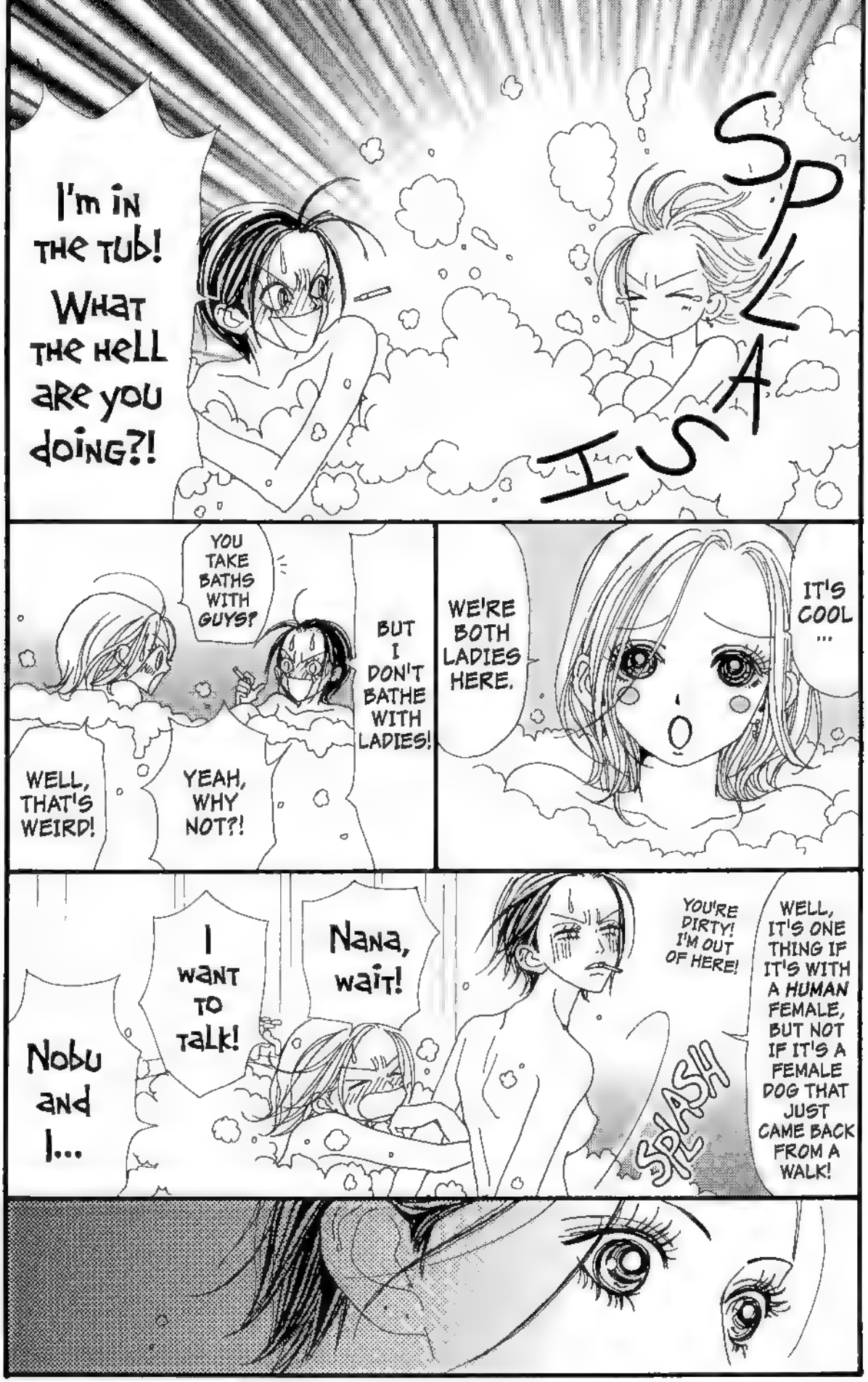
I'LL DO ANY-THING ...
...TO MAKE YOU HAPPY...
...IN MY OWN WAY.
I'M...
...THE ONE WHO'S DREAM-ING.
I MEAN, I FEEL LIKE I CAN DO ANYTHING WITH YOU BY MY SIDE.
BUT WITH THIS DREAM...
...I DON'T HAVE TO WAKE UP.

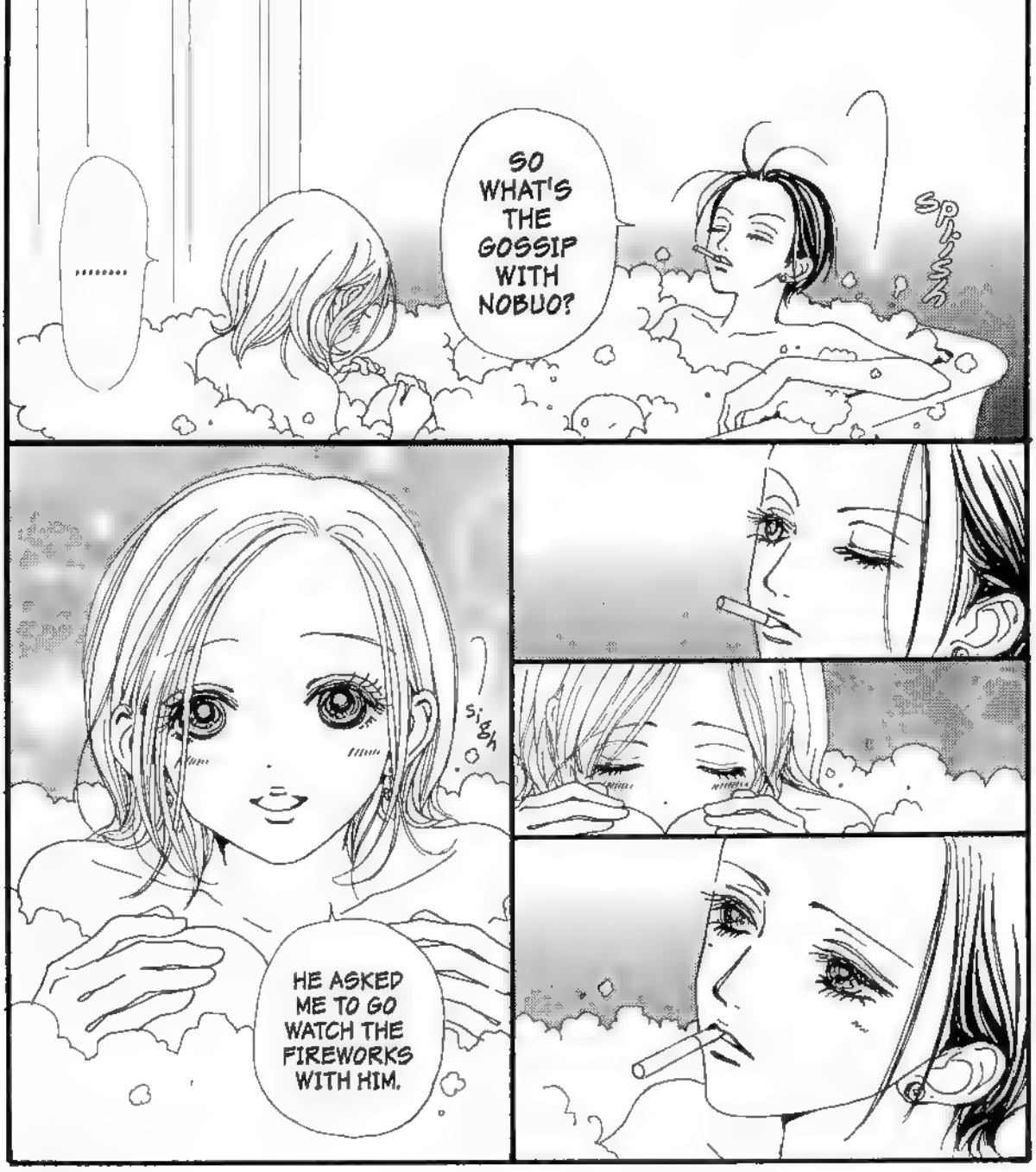
HEY, NANA ...
SO WHEN YOU'RE THROUGH WITH TAKUMI...
...AND YOUR FEELINGS HAVE SETTLED...
...JUST COME TO ME.
I BELIEVE IN YOU, NANA, AND I'LL BE WAIT-ING.

...WHO WOULD DARE SUDDENLY TALK TO ME LIKE THAT
I DIDN'T THINK A REAL GUY EXISTED...
BUT UNTIL TODAY...
I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE SO MANY TIMES
...REN TALKS TO YOU, NANA?
IS THIS THE WAY...

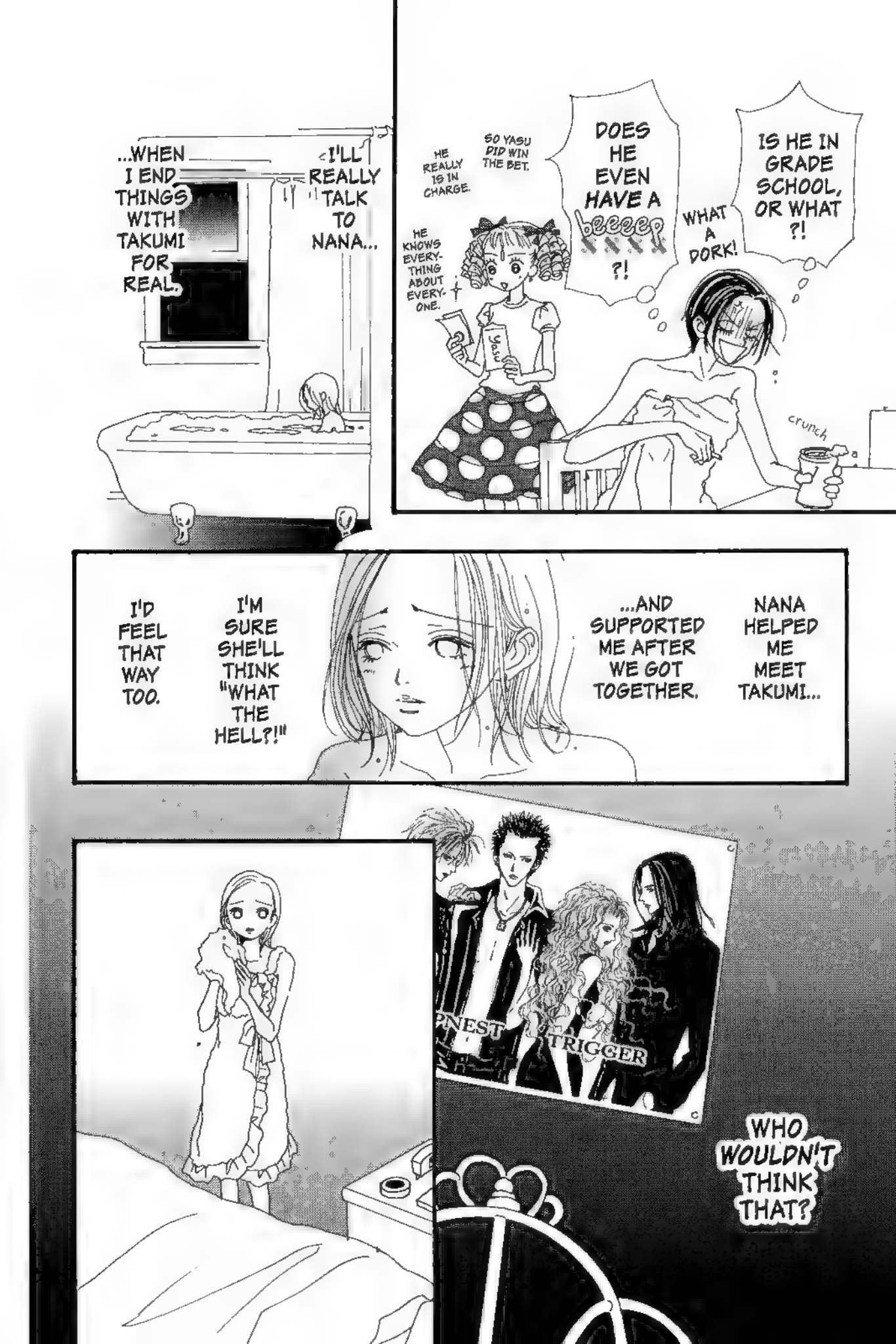
I REALLY WANT TO TALK WITH NANA.
WELCOME BACK, HACHIKO!
HEY...
SORRY I'M LATE.
OH, NO...
YOU'RE KIND OF EARLY ...
WHERE'S NOBU?
YOU'RE ALONE ?
SO ...
WHERE'RE SHIN AND YASU?
HEY...
OH...
BUT HE HAS TO WORK IN THE MORNING, SO...
HE JUST WALKED ME HOME...
WHERE'S NOBU?
OH, THEY ALREADY SPLIT...
BUT I BOUGHT ALL THIS STUFF!
WHAT THE?
SO, UH... WHERE'S NOBU ?
WE CAN JUST USE IT FOR ANOTHER PARTY.
IT'S ON THE BAND, ANYWAYS.
I'M SORRY ...
I WONDER WHAT HAP-PENED.
OH...

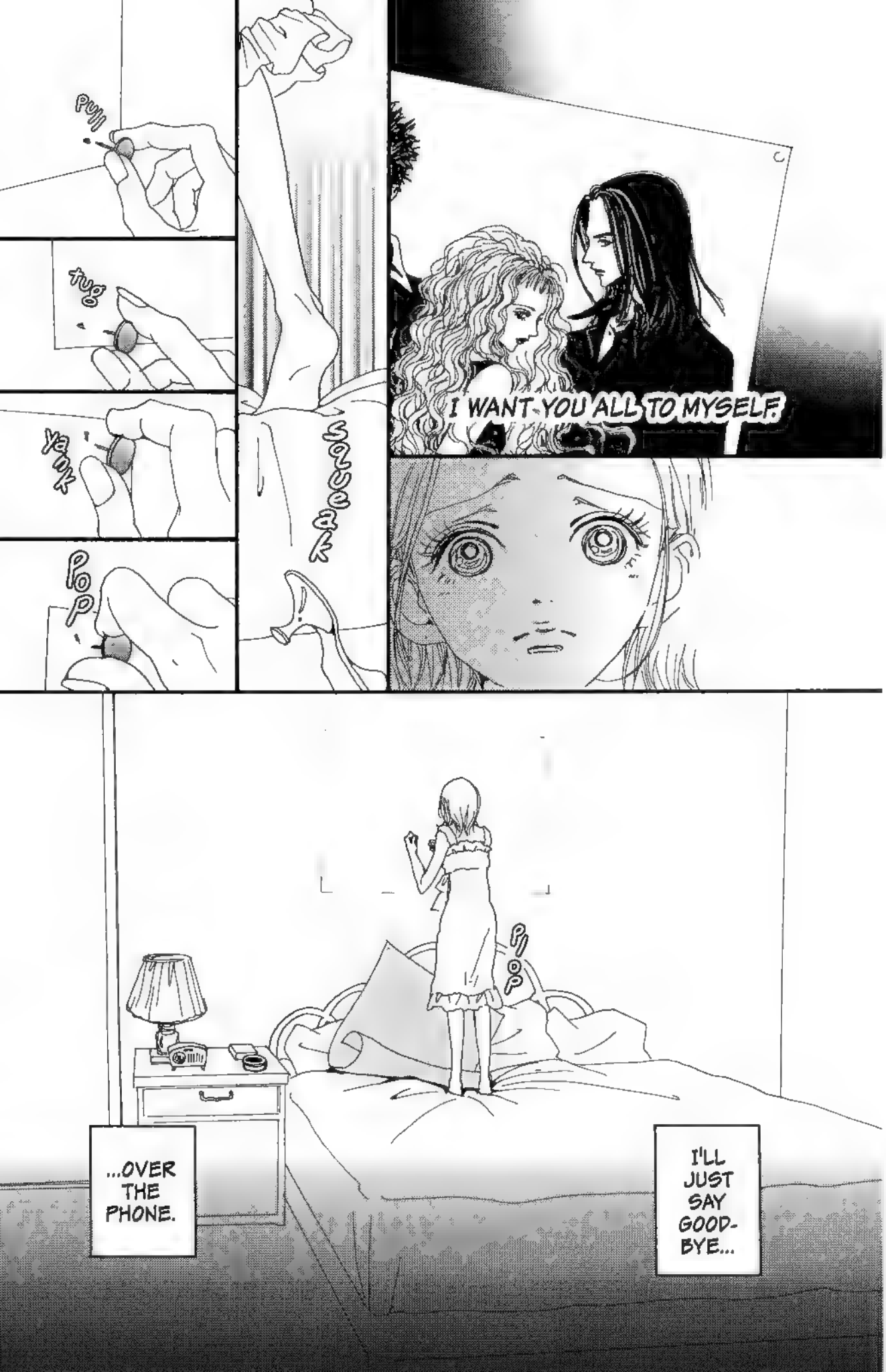
THEN I GUESS THAT'S IT!
I'VE GOT TO WORK IN THE MORNING, TOO. CAN I JUMP IN THE TUB FIRST?
OH—
BUT NANA'S ...
BAM
I KNEW YOU'D JUST BARGE IN!
I HEARD EVERY-THING.
WHY ARE YOU SUCH A PERV?
NANA...
FWIP
FWIP


I'm in the tub!
What the hell are you doing?!
SPLASH
YOU TAKE BATHS WITH GUYS?
BUT I DON'T BATHE WITH LADIES!
WELL, THAT'S WEIRD!
YEAH, WHY NOT?!
WE'RE BOTH LADIES HERE.
IT'S COOL ...
Nobu and I...
I want to talk!
Nana, wait!
YOU'RE DIRTY! I'M OUT OF HERE!
SPLASH
WELL, IT'S ONE THING IF IT'S WITH A HUMAN FEMALE, BUT NOT IF IT'S A FEMALE DOG THAT JUST CAME BACK FROM A WALK!


.....
SO WHAT'S THE GOSSIP WITH NOBUO?
SPLISH
sigh
HE ASKED ME TO GO WATCH THE FIREWORKS WITH HIM.

SO WHY DON'T YOU GO, THEN?


...WHEN I END THINGS WITH TAKUMI FOR REAL.
I'LL REALLY TALK TO NANA...
HE REALLY IS IN CHARGE.
SO YASU DID WIN THE BET.
HE KNOWS EVERY-THING ABOUT EVERY-ONE.
DOES HE EVEN HAVE A beeeep ?!
WHAT A DORK!
IS HE IN GRADE SCHOOL, OR WHAT ?!
crunch
I'D FEEL THAT WAY TOO.
I'M SURE SHE'LL THINK "WHAT THE HELL?!"
...AND SUPPORTED ME AFTER WE GOT TOGETHER.
NANA HELPED ME MEET TAKUMI...
TRIGGER
WHO WOULDN'T THINK THAT?


pull
tug
yank
pop
squeak
I WANT YOU ALL TO MYSELF.
pop
...OVER THE PHONE.
I'LL JUST SAY GOOD-BYE...

I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM GET HURT.
HE'S SO FULL OF PRIDE.
LATELY THERE'S BEEN SOME MOSQUITO HANGING AROUND MY PLACE.
IT'S SO ANNOYING.
REALLY?
AT YOUR PLACE TOO?
OH MAAAAAAN...
I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST ME.
FOR ONCE I FELT LIKE A CELEBRITY, AND I WAS HAPPY.
WHAT A BUMMER.
IT'S NOT A GOOD THING!
YOU IDIOT!
A MOS-QUI-TO?!
WELL, IT IS SUM-MER ...
REIRA ...
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

THIS IS BAD.
DOES THAT MEAN THEY'RE HANGING AROUND MY PLACE, TOO?
THE PAPARAZZI ARE AT MY PLACE, TOO! ♡
I WONDER WHOSE BLOOD THEY REALLY WANT TO SUCK?
They want YOUR blood!
I'LL TELL HER TO LOOK HOT WHEN SHE GOES OUT.
IF THEY'RE GONNA TAKE PHOTOS, SHE MIGHT AS WELL DO IT UP.
HOW SWEET!
I THINK IT'S ADOR-ABLE.
"REN HONJO— MADLY IN LOVE!"
OH, I DON'T KNOW...
YOUR SCANDAL WILL BE THE WORST!
SEND HER HOME BEFORE THEY FIND OUT!
THAT'S BAD.
REN, YOU HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND AT YOUR PLACE.
OH YEAH ...
beep
♫ ring
WE DO JUST FINE WITHOUT YOU, DUDE.
LEAVE ALREADY.
I'M BEAT!
SO WHEN CAN WE GO HOME TO OUR MOSQUITO NETS?

We need 2 talk.
Please call when
U have some time.
Sorry, I know yr
busy.
Nana
Ring
GULP
Restricted
.....
WELL, THAT WAS QUICK.
HELLO...
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?

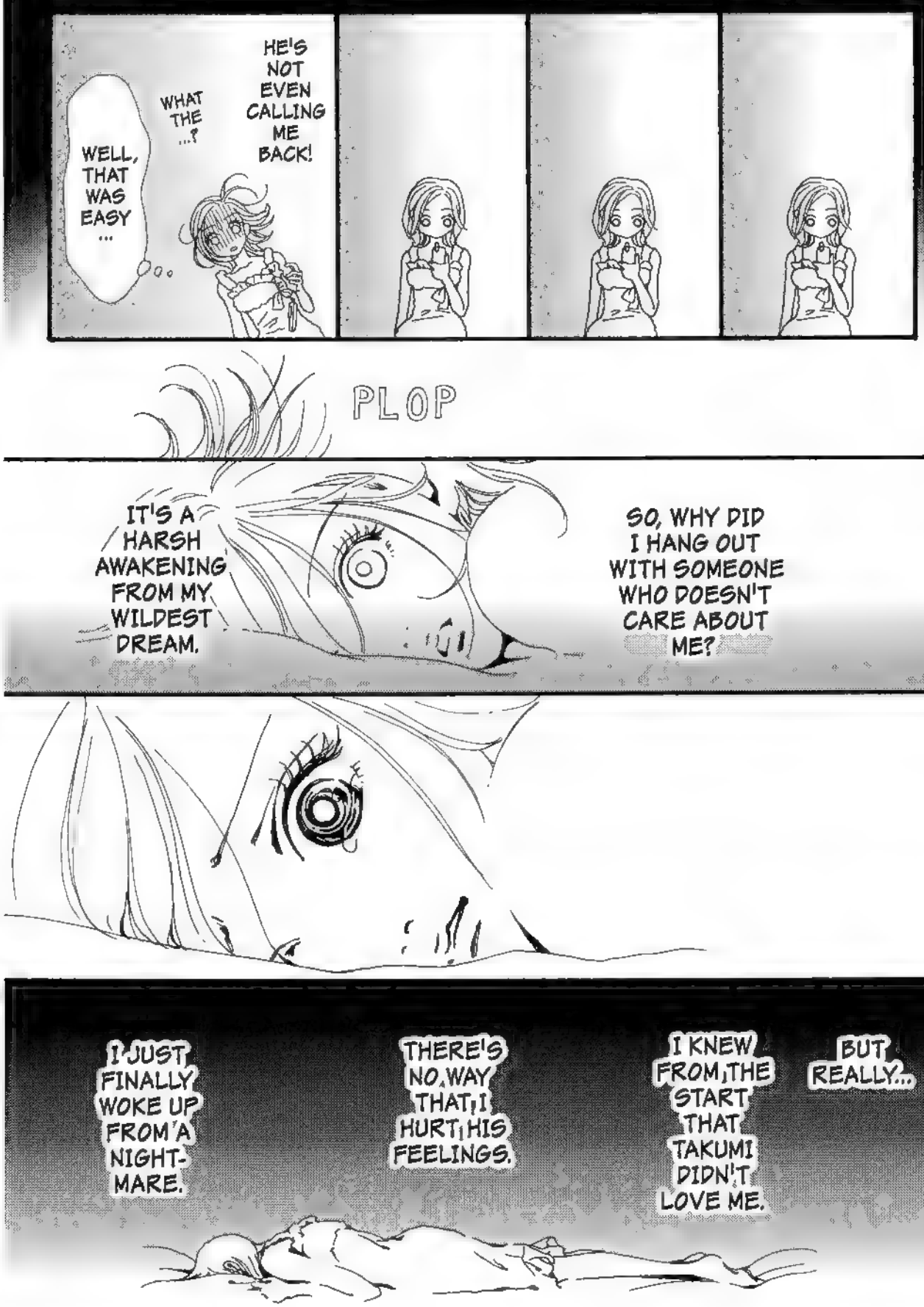
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT'S UP?
I CAN'T DO THIS ON THE PHONE.
CAN WE GET TOGETHER TO TALK?
UM...
THAT'S PRETTY COLD...
SAYING "GOOD-BYE" WITH ONE PHONE CALL...
SORRY, WE'VE GOT TO TAPE A TV SESSION.
HUH?
SORRY TO INTER-RUPT.
OF COURSE.
OH...
I'M PRETTY BORED.
POP
IT'S MOSTLY JUST ABOUT WAITING AROUND TO RECORD.
NO BIGGIE.

STOP.
DON'T GET SUCKED BACK IN.
PLAYING ON TV'S A BIG DEAL.
IS IT A MUSIC SHOW?
NO, IT'S SOME SATEL-LITE TV SHOW.
HUH?
THEY'RE DOING A SPECIAL ON US.
OH... REALLY?
WE DON'T GET SATEL-LITE TV...
OR EVEN CABLE.
WELL YOU SHOULD, IF YOU'RE A REAL FAN.
....
WHAT'S WRONG?
CAN WE TALK ABOUT IT ON THE PHONE?
MY SCHEDULE'S CRAZY BUSY FOR A WHILE.
OH ...
REALLY ...
.....
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
OH NO!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE PREG-NANT!
WHAT?!
N—
NO!
OH, GOOD.
DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!
I MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT I'M SENSI-TIVE.
I CAN'T DEAL WITH INCONVE-NIENCES LIKE THAT.

"INCONVE-NIENCES" ?!
SORRY
OH, LIKE GETTING A GIRL PREGNANT IS JUST SOME INCONVE-NIENCE TO HIM!
WHO TALKS LIKE THAT ?!
AND WHY DO I KEEP APOLO-GIZING?!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?!
TIME TO GO, DUDE
YOU KNOW WHAT? DON'T CALL ME EVER AGAIN!
WHY BOTHER ?!
I'LL CALL YOU WHEN I CAN
SORRY I'VE GOT TO SPLIT

GOOD-BYE!
WHAT?!
CLICK
I THINK NANA'S MAD AT ME.
IT WAS KIND OF SCARY.
HUH?
NANA?!
OH... HACHIKO.
"DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE PREGNANT"?
"DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT..."
WELL, I'D BE MAD TOO.
AND YOU SAY YOU'RE SENSITIVE?!
YOU DON'T HAVE AN OUNCE OF SENSITIVITY.

WELL, IF THAT'S ALL YOU CARE ABOUT, USE A CONDOM!
WHAT'D I DO WRONG?
AND IT WOULD SUCK THE MOST FOR HER.
BUT IT WOULD REALLY SUCK. I'M JUST BEING HONEST.
YOU HEARD ME?
WELL, YOU'RE PRETTY SELFISH, TOO!
...
BUT NANA'S ON THE PILL... THAT FEMINIST.
I COULD GO FOR A LITTLE FAMILY.
BUT I DON'T MIND.
DON'T BOSS ME!
YEAH, LIKE YOU SHOULD TALK.
I TOLD HIM OFF!
I DID IT!
SO IS THAT IT?

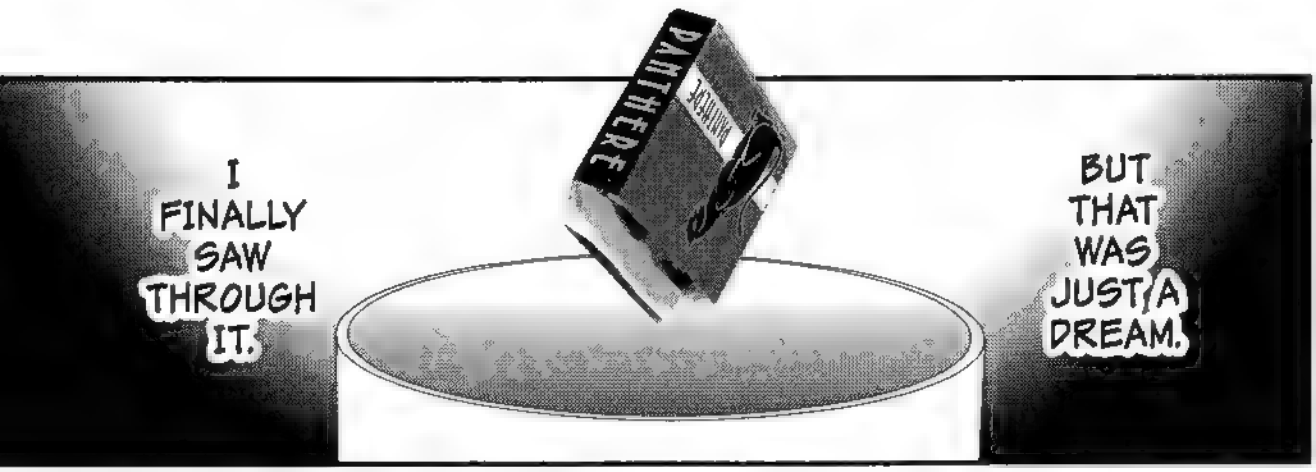

WELL, THAT WAS EASY ...
WHAT THE ...?
HE'S NOT EVEN CALLING ME BACK!
PLOP
IT'S A HARSH AWAKENING FROM MY WILDEST DREAM.
SO, WHY DID I HANG OUT WITH SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ME?
I JUST FINALLY WOKE UP FROM A NIGHT-MARE.
THERE'S NO WAY THAT I HURT HIS FEELINGS.
I KNEW FROM THE START THAT TAKUMI DIDN'T LOVE ME.
BUT REALLY...

I GUESS I JUST HOPED IT WOULD TURN INTO REAL LOVE.

AND IT FELT SO GOOD TO TOUCH SOMEONE...

YEAH, HE WAS A SWEET-TALKER...

IT WAS ALL ABOUT SEX.



I BELIEVE IN YOU, NANA, AND I'LL BE WAITING.

I FINALLY WOKE UP 'CAUSE THE *REAL* PRINCE KISSED ME.

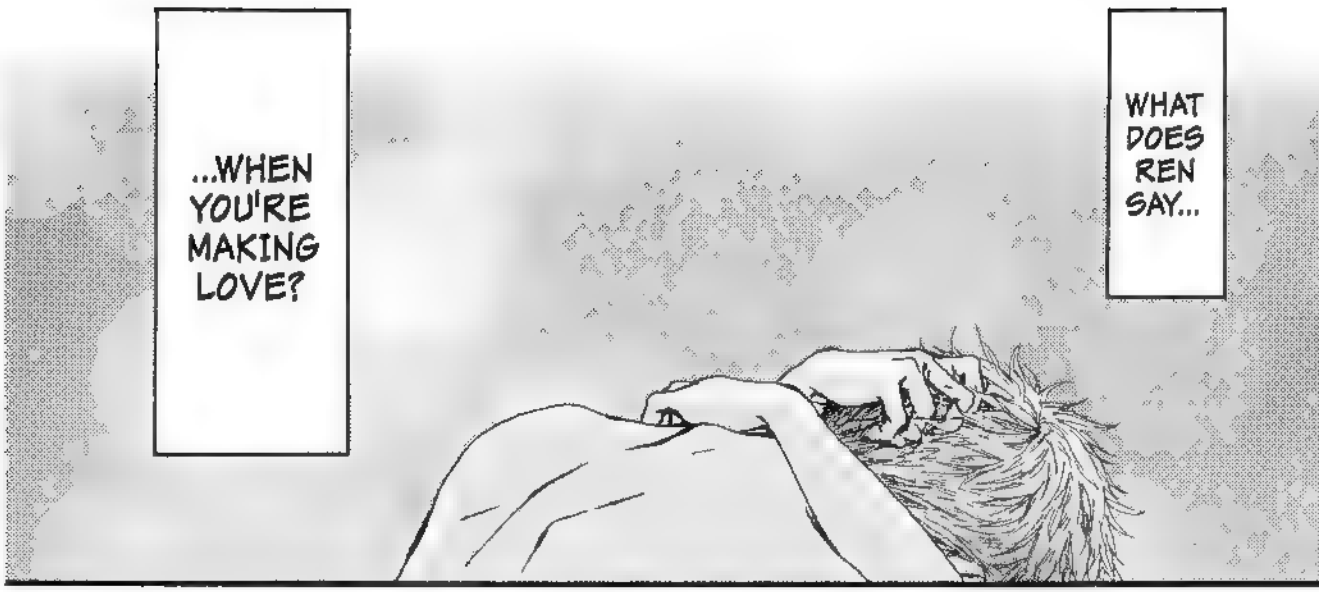
HE MAY NOT LOOK LIKE ONE ...
BUT TO ME, HE REALLY IS.
My Prince!
AAH!
You scared me!
JUMP
SORRY TO STALK YOU HERE.
NANA TOLD ME WHERE YOU WORK.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WORKED IN A HIP RECORD STORE, NOBU.
NO WONDER YOU HAVE SO MANY RECORDS IN YOUR ROOM.♡
HOW COOL.
COOL. THEN I'LL JUST WAIT FOR YOU AT THE CAFÉ NEXT DOOR!
WELL... I ONLY WORK HERE TWICE A WEEK...
I ALSO TEMP AND DO ODD JOBS...
OH, COOL.
ODD JOBS?
SO WHEN DO YOU GET OFF WORK TODAY?
AT NINE.
...
Crash

YOU'RE OFF WORK! ♡
AAH!
DON'T SNEAK UP ON ME!
SMILE.
I WANT TO KNOW EVERY-THING ABOUT HIM.
...THERE'RE A LOT OF THINGS I DON'T KNOW ABOUT NOBU YET.
IF I REALLY THINK ABOUT IT...
BUT HE'S A PUNK...
WHICH MEANS HE'S SERI-OUS.
BUT I THINK HIS BLOOD TYPE IS A...
I CAN'T SIT STILL!
07/30 (Mon) 08:51 pm
DAMN!

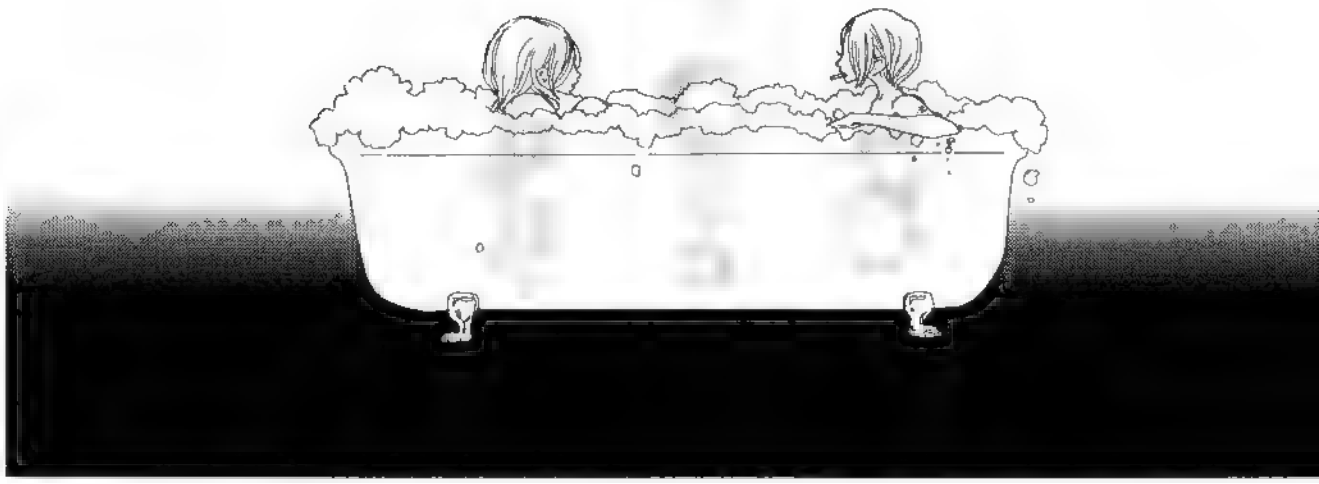
WHAT?
MY PLACE?
IT'S CHEAP-ER THAT WAY.
I'D RATHER MAKE SOMETHING AT YOUR PLACE, NOBU.
THEN LET'S GO GET SOMETHING TO EAT.
OKAY...
AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?
I HAVEN'T EATEN SINCE I GOT OFF WORK.
TO COME TO ME AFTER YOU WORK THINGS OUT.
YOU DON'T LISTEN.
I TOLD YOU LAST NIGHT...
WHY NOT?
No!

BUT THAT'S TOO FAST!
BUT ... I CAME TO TELL YOU THAT I DID WORK THINGS OUT.
*Nikujyaga: Japanese meat and potato soup.
WAIT, CAN YOU MAKE NIKU-JYAGA* ?
ONE MORE YEAR...
OKAY, I'LL STICK IT OUT FOR ANOTHER DAY.
BUT EVEN IF IT FEELS LIKE A YEAR, A DAY IS A DAY!
IT FEELS MORE LIKE A YEAR...
SO MUCH HAS HAP-PENED TODAY ...
I'M SORRY.
I'M ACTING CRAZY.
OHH...
SHE'S SO CUTE ...
HOW CAN I RESIST ?
I'M SUPER GOOD AT IT!

WHERE'S HACHIKO !?
GOD— WHY DO I HAVE TO HUNT HER DOWN EVERY DAY?!
Where does Nobu work? Hachiko
SHE EMAILED ME SAYING SHE MIGHT NOT COME HOME TONIGHT.
MAYBE SHE'S AT HER BOY-FRIEND'S AGAIN ?
OR NOBU'S ?
WHAT ?
BUT THEY'RE TAPING TODAY, TOO, UNTIL LATE AT NIGHT ...
BAND
LIVE
BAND LIFE
WHAT ?
WHO IS?
.....
HEY, NANA ...



I SHOULD HAVE ASKED YOU THEN, NO MATTER WHAT.



THAT OLD CLAW FOOT BATHTUB...

...ISN'T AROUND ANYMORE.

NANA

TM

ナナ

[Chapter 24]

SO YOU COULD SEE WHERE THE POSTER USED TO BE.
MY WALL WAS FADED BY THE SUN...

WHAT ?
ARE YOU AN ONLY CHILD, NOBU?
YEAH.
MY PARENTS MUST BE CRYING NOW...
OR THEY'RE JUST REALLY MAD AT ME.
REALLY ?
OH, 'CAUSE THEY WANT YOU TO TAKE OVER THEIR BIG HOTEL? ♡
HOW BIG IS IT?
.....
Rich bachelor

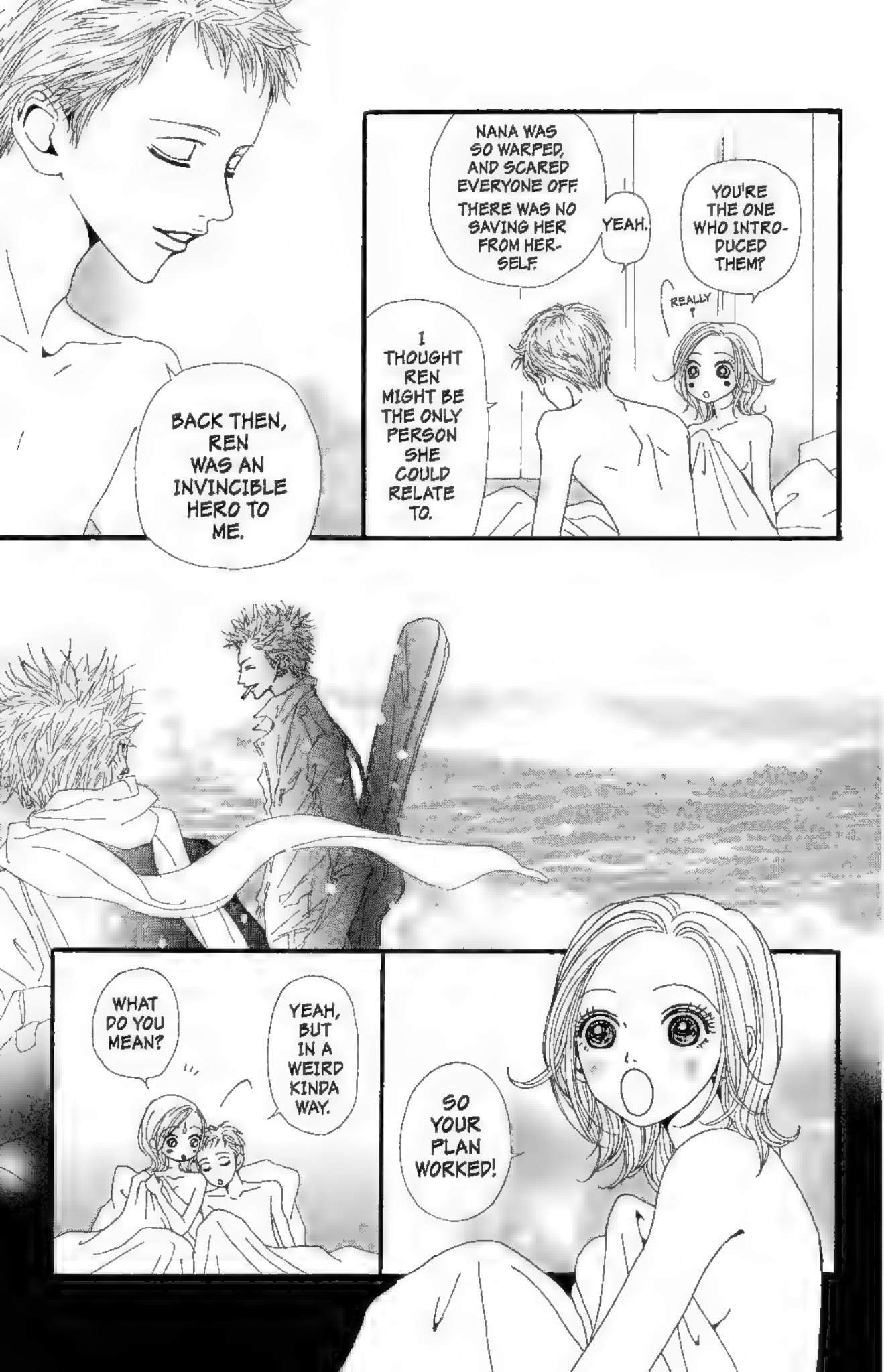
SO JUST MAKE SURE THAT HAP-PENS!
PARENTS ARE LIKE THAT.
BUT YOUR FOLKS WILL BE PROUD AND FORGIVE YOU WHEN BLAST MAKES IT.
OH, I GET IT!
YOU ONLY REMEMBER THE IMPORTANT STUFF!
WHATEVER!
Ah Ha Ha Ha!
HEY! DON'T CALL ME HACHI ANYMORE!
I'M SO HAPPY!
I WANT TO MAKE MY HACHI PROUD, TOO! ♡
YEAH!
SO IT'S LIKE... ...TOTAL REFLEX.
I'VE BEEN CALL-ING HER THAT SINCE I WAS A SOPHOMORE IN HIGH SCHOOL.
CAT-EYED QUEENIE!
HEH HEH
Ah Ha Ha!
BUT WHEN I HEAR THE NAME "NANA", I JUST THINK OF OUR CAT-EYED QUEENIE.

WOW.
YOU'VE BEEN IN BLAST FOR THAT LONG?
THAT'S A LONG TIME.
NO, THE BAND STARTED THE SUMMER OF MY JUNIOR YEAR...
BUT NANA AND I KNEW EACH OTHER IN HIGH SCHOOL.
REALLY ?
WHAT WAS NANA LIKE IN HIGH SCHOOL ?!
I'D DIE TO SEE NANA IN A SCHOOL UNIFORM!
WELL... SHE DIDN'T TALK, SHE NEVER LAUGHED, AND SHE LOOKED SCARY.
SHE WAS A TOTAL LONER.
poof
No way!
I JUST FIGURED SHE WAS POPULAR IN HIGH SCHOOL.
I'm shocked!!
WELL, SHE WAS SUPER GOTH.
EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS REALLY QUIET, SHE WAS BEAUTI-FUL AND STOOD OUT.
NO ONE KNEW WHAT SHE WAS THINKING. EVERYONE WAS AFRAID OF HER AND JUST LEFT HER ALONE.
BUT SHE MUST HAVE BEEN KIND OF LONELY, NOT HAVING ANY FRIENDS.
I MEAN, THINK ABOUT IT.
.....
SO I TRIED TO CHAT HER UP WITH MY BIG MOUTH, BUT SHE TOTALLY IGNORED ME.
I FELT REJECTED.
HA HA
BUT I WAS A TOTAL MUSIC FREAK, SO I THOUGHT...
"IF SHE WON'T TALK TO ME, I'LL USE MUSIC!"
HEH HEH

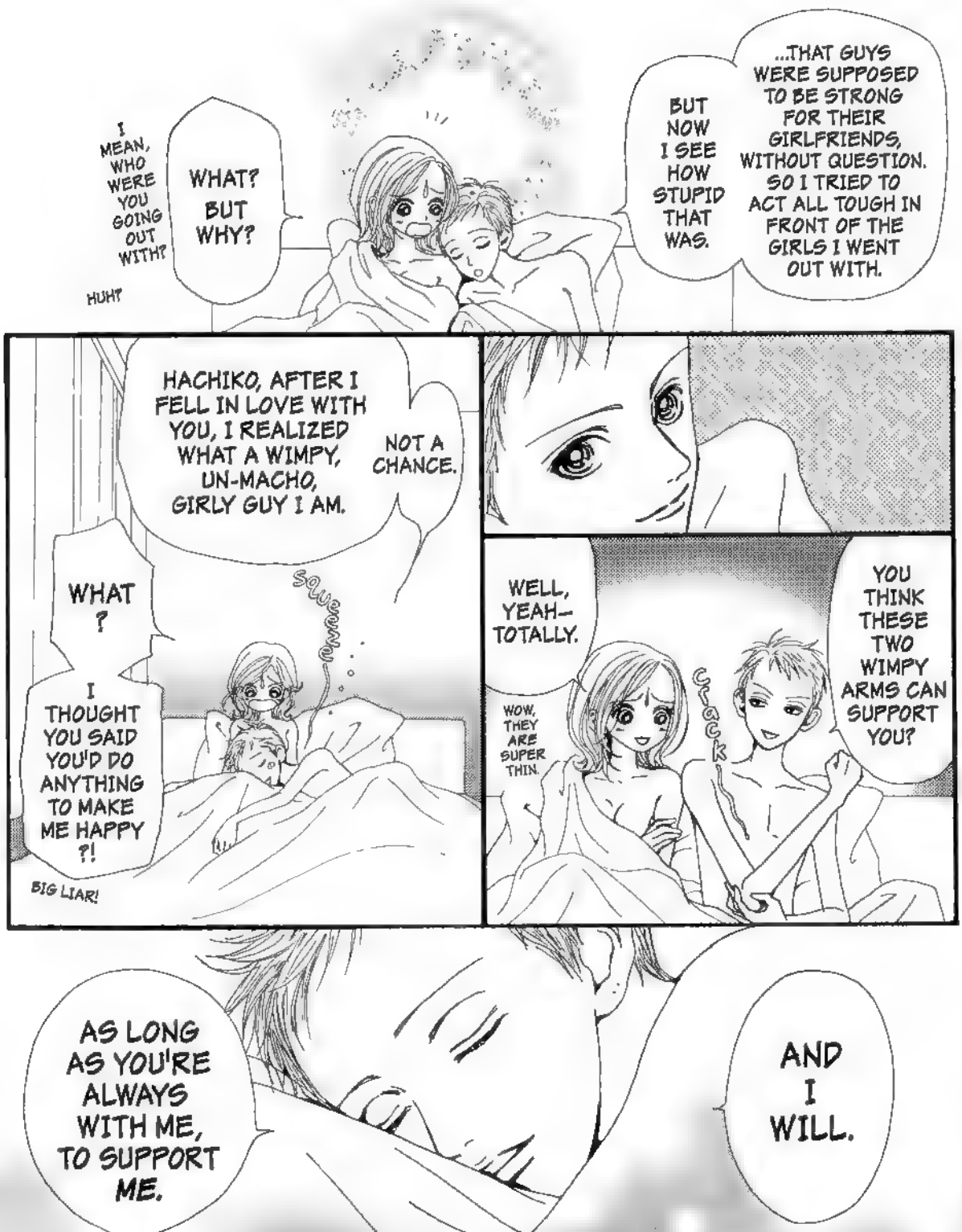
THEN AFTER THAT, SHE FINALLY TALKED TO ME.
AH HA HA!
I WAS JUST HOPING SHE'D LIKE SOME-THING IN THERE.
VARIOUS MUSIC STYLES.
THEY WERE ALL MY FAVORITE CDS...
LIKE TEN OR SO.
WELL, I FORCED THEM ON HER...
SO I LET HER BOR-ROW SOME OF MY CDS.
THANKS FOR LOANING ME THE CDS.
NEXT TIME YOU GET ANOTHER GOOD ONE, LET ME LISTEN TO THAT TOO.
TERASHIMA.
SHE SAID SOME-THING!
Plunk

WAIT, NANA?
UM ... SURE ...
JUMP
NOBUO DID IT!
SHE SOUNDED HUMAN!
MS OSAKI TALKED!
SHE SPOKE!
She smiled!
THE CRAZY ONE, THE BAND WITH THE PORNO NAME...
WHAT'S IT CALLED ...?
WHICH CDS DID YOU LIKE?
SO WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DO YOU LIKE?
YEAH THAT. ...
OH, THE SEX PISTOLS ?
.....
WHAT A DORK
WE HAVE SO MUCH IN COMMON!
YEAH, I LIKE PUNK MUSIC THE BEST, TOO!

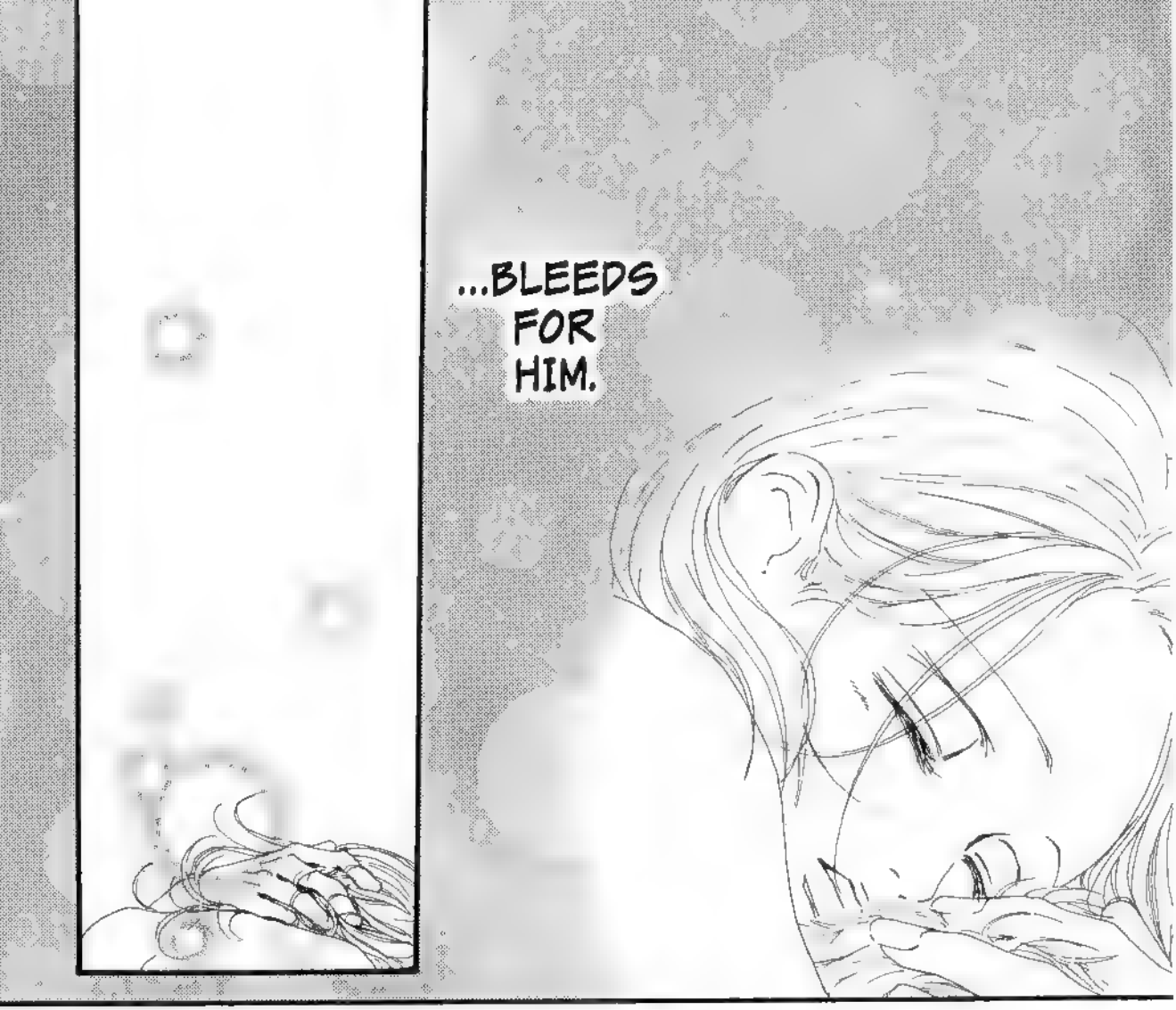
I WAS SO PSYCHED!
I FELL HEAD OVER HEELS.
SO, YOU WERE TOTALLY IN LOVE WITH NANA?
WELL, MAYBE A LITTLE BIT.
What the hell?!
I can't believe it!
Waaa!
.....
BUT THAT WAS ALL SO LONG AGO!
WHY'RE YOU BEING SUCH A BABY?!
Sniff
IT HAD TO BE NANA...
I CAN'T COMPETE!
BUT THEN WE BECAME FRIENDS, AND I COULDN'T EVEN THINK OF HER LIKE THAT ANYMORE.
I MEAN, I'M THE ONE WHO INTRODUCED REN AND NANA TO EACH OTHER.


BACK THEN, REN WAS AN INVINCIBLE HERO TO ME.
I THOUGHT REN MIGHT BE THE ONLY PERSON SHE COULD RELATE TO.
NANA WAS SO WARPED, AND SCARED EVERYONE OFF. THERE WAS NO SAVING HER FROM HERSELF.
YEAH.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO INTRODUCED THEM?
REALLY ?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YEAH, BUT IN A WEIRD KINDA WAY.
SO YOUR PLAN WORKED!

AT SOME POINT I REALIZED THAT REN WASN'T REALLY AS INVINCIBLE AS I THOUGHT.
I THINK NANA ENDED UP SAVING REN JUST AS MUCH AS REN SAVED NANA.
I USED TO THINK...


I MEAN, WHO WERE YOU GOING OUT WITH?
WHAT? BUT WHY?
HUH?
BUT NOW I SEE HOW STUPID THAT WAS.
...THAT GUYS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE STRONG FOR THEIR GIRLFRIENDS, WITHOUT QUESTION. SO I TRIED TO ACT ALL TOUGH IN FRONT OF THE GIRLS I WENT OUT WITH.
HACHIKO, AFTER I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU, I REALIZED WHAT A WIMPY, UN-MACHO, GIRLY GUY I AM.
NOT A CHANCE.
WHAT ?
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU'D DO ANYTHING TO MAKE ME HAPPY ?!
BIG LIAR!
Sweeeee
WELL, YEAH— TOTALLY.
WOW, THEY ARE SUPER THIN.
Crack
YOU THINK THESE TWO WIMPY ARMS CAN SUPPORT YOU?
AS LONG AS YOU'RE ALWAYS WITH ME, TO SUPPORT ME.
AND I WILL.

THAT CAN BE ARRANGED.
OH...
I FEEL LIKE I CAN DO ANYTHING WITH YOU BY MY SIDE.
I GET IT...
MY HEART... WHAT IS THIS FEEL-ING?
SO...
NOBU'S LIKE A CLINGING CHILD.
I'M USUALLY THE ONE WHO FILLS THAT ROLE.
THIS IS NEW FOR ME.



...EVERY-THING HE WANTS.

I WANT TO DO...

I WANT TO HOLD HIM.

I WANT TO BE THERE FOR HIM.

I WANT TO SPOIL HIM.

I WANT TO BE WITH HIM.

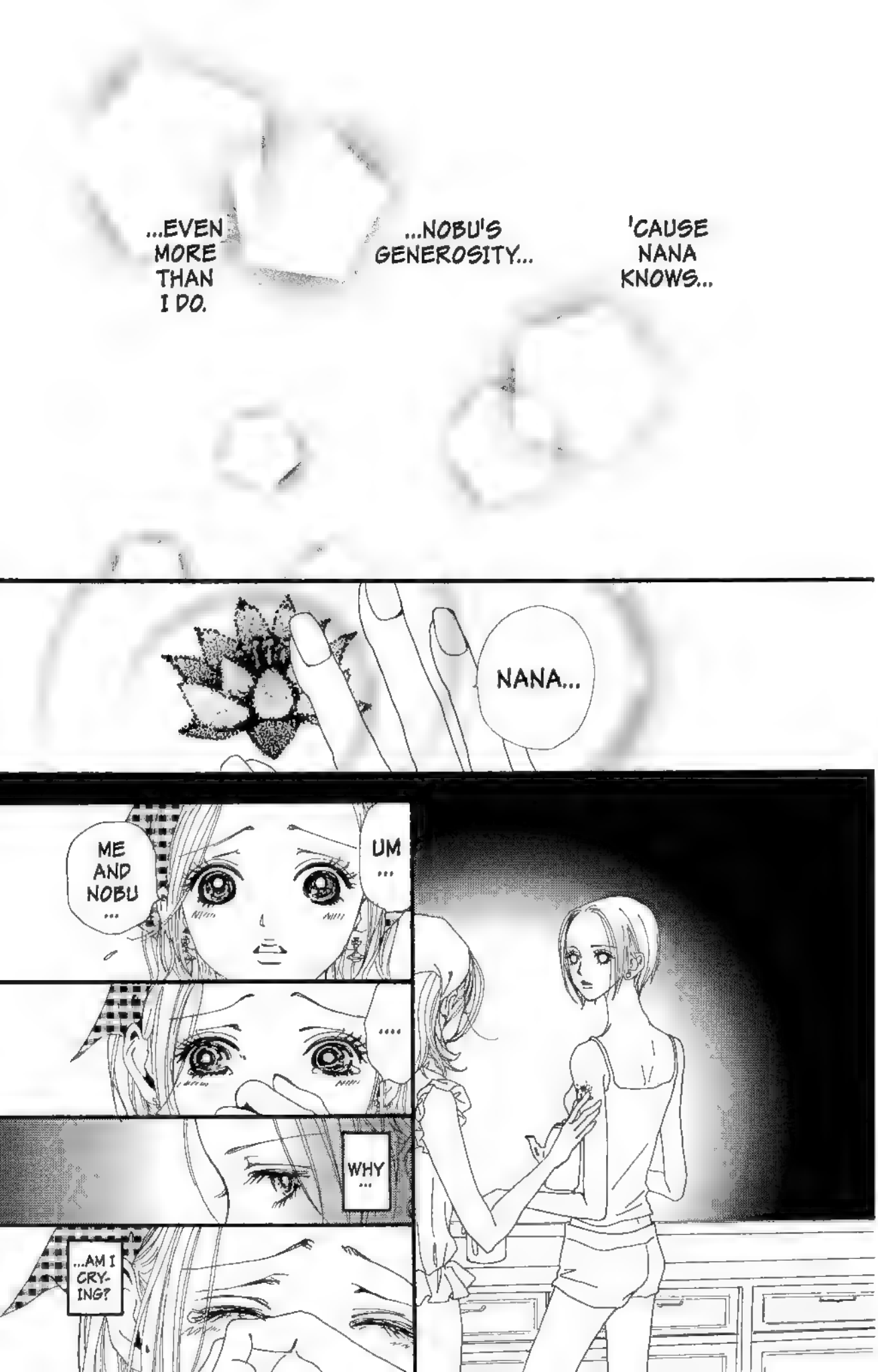
...ABOUT HAVING MEN DO THOSE THINGS FOR *ME*.

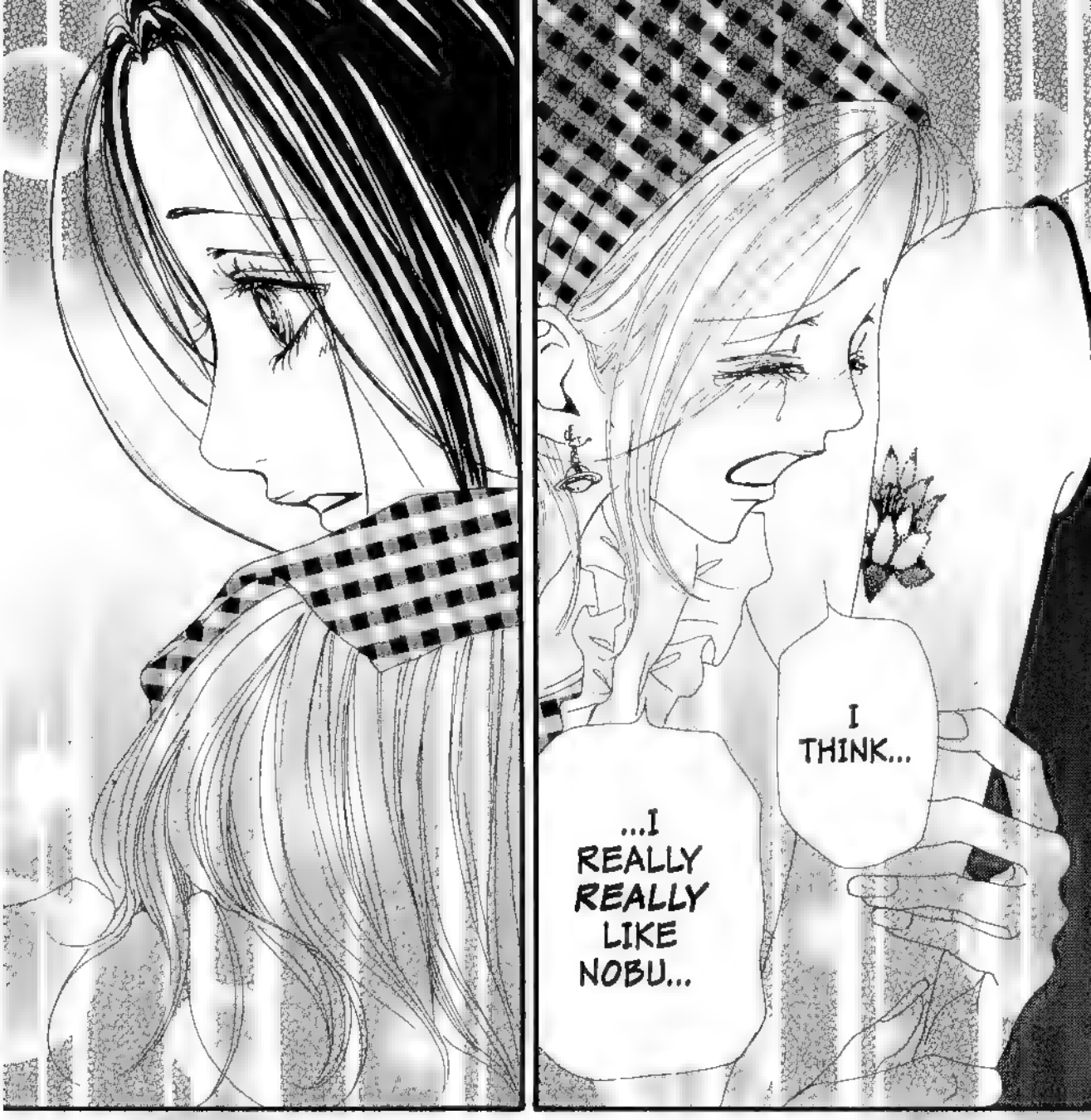
IN THE PAST, I ONLY THOUGHT...

MORN-
ING.
MAYBE THAT WAS MY BIG MISTAKE.
.....
SHOULD I SAY...
OR...
...WELCOME HOME?
DAMN...
SHE'S STILL ASLEEP.
WHERE'S MISATO?
I BOR-ROWED HER EAR-RINGS.
SCOOT
SO ...
I'VE GOT TO TELL HER.
SO, WHO DID YOU LEAVE MISATO FOR?
I KNOW YOU WEREN'T WITH TAKUMI!
OH, HE'S SO BUSY.
HE'S NEVER HOME.
WHAT ABOUT REN?
NANA...
YOU'RE STILL HERE!

I TOOK UP WITH NOBU AFTER I BROKE IT OFF WITH TAKUMI, BUT ACTUALLY, THINGS OVERLAPPED A LITTLE...
HOW DO I EXPLAIN IT SO SHE DOESN'T THINK I'M TOTALLY RIDICULOUS?
WELL, AT LEAST SHE'S IN A GOOD MOOD.
BUT...
THEN YOU GUYS CAN GO TOGETHER.
I'LL GO SOME OTHER TIME.
OH!
WITH NOBU.
ALL RIGHT.
THEN I'LL DO THAT.
CAN'T WAIT
DOESN'T JUNKO'S GROUP ART SHOW OPEN TODAY?
OH REALLY?
I'VE GOT WORK, SO I HAVE TO CHANGE AND GET OUT OF HERE!
I WON'T RUSH IT WITH HER.
I CAN'T GO SEE IT ANY OTHER DAY, SO I WAS TALKING WITH MISATO ABOUT GOING TODAY.
GULP
OH, BY THE WAY...
DID YOU FIND WHERE NOBU WORKS YESTER-DAY?
YOU TWO SEEM TO GET ALONG PRETTY WELL...
OKAY, I HAVE TO SPLIT...
OH—
YEAH, THANKS!

NOBU'S ALWAYS BEEN...
...HONEST, SINCERE AND DEMONSTRATIVE WITH HIS FEELINGS.
SO YOU TWO CAN COMMUNICATE EASILY, SINCE YOU'RE SO SIMILAR.
OF COURSE...
OF COURSE, YOU'RE BOTH KIND OF LIKE LITTLE YAPPING DOGS, WHICH CAN GET A LITTLE ANNOYING.
NANA TOTALLY GETS IT.
BUT SHE MUST HAVE BEEN KIND OF LONELY, NOT HAVING ANY FRIENDS.

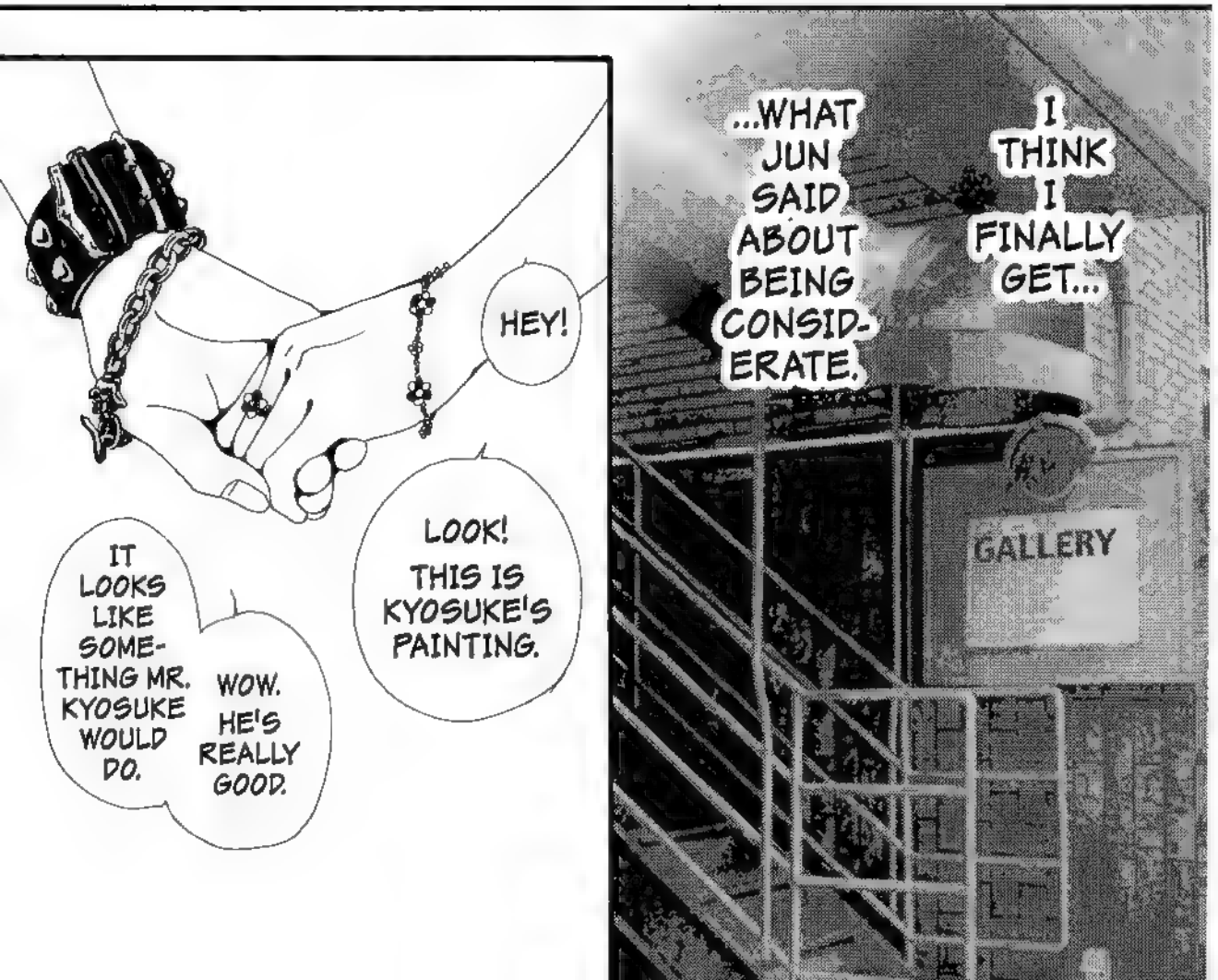

...EVEN MORE THAN I DO.
...NOBU'S GENEROSITY...
'CAUSE NANA KNOWS...
NANA...
ME AND NOBU ...
UM ...
....
WHY ...
...AM I CRY-ING?

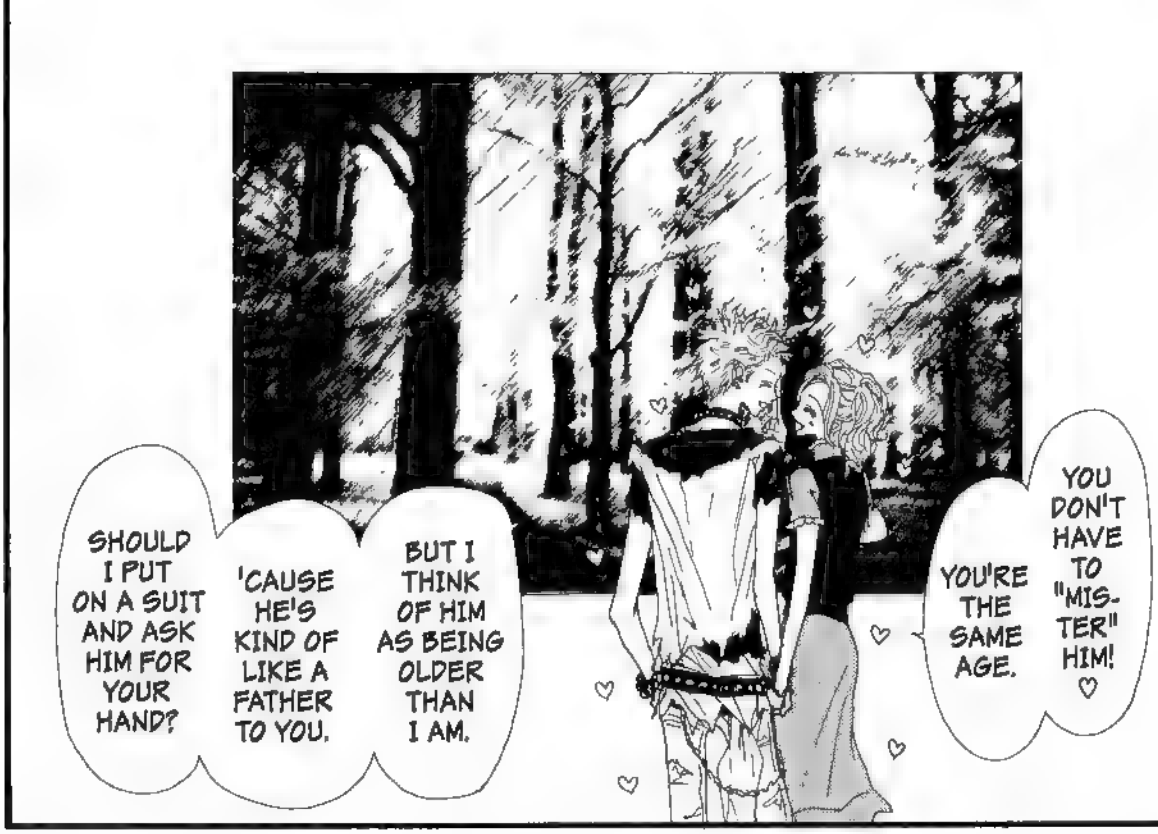


SHE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING AFTER THAT.

I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ELSE EITHER, 'CAUSE THAT WOULD SEEM LIKE I WAS MAKING EXCUSES.
I DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN ANY-THING.
I JUST HAVE TO TREASURE NOBU.
AND NANA WILL WATCH OVER US.

I THINK THAT
THIS TIME,
IT'S FOR REAL.


...WHAT JUN SAID ABOUT BEING CONSID-ERATE.
I THINK I FINALLY GET...
GALLERY
HEY!
LOOK! THIS IS KYOSUKE'S PAINTING.
WOW. HE'S REALLY GOOD.
IT LOOKS LIKE SOME-THING MR. KYOSUKE WOULD DO.


YOU DON'T HAVE TO "MISTER" HIM! ♡
YOU'RE THE SAME AGE.
BUT I THINK OF HIM AS BEING OLDER THAN I AM.
'CAUSE HE'S KIND OF LIKE A FATHER TO YOU.
SHOULD I PUT ON A SUIT AND ASK HIM FOR YOUR HAND?

Ah Ha Ha Ha!
IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.
IT'S INCREDIBLE ...
Wow!

OH LOOK!
OVER THERE! THAT'S JUN'S PAINTING!
giggle giggle giggle
WELL, AT LEAST REDUCE HIM TO A BIG BROTHER OR SOMETHING.
Hee hee
.....

I'M THE ONE WHO WANTS AN EXPLANATION.
JUN, I DON'T GET IT.
WILL YOU EXPLAIN IT?
WHAT IS IT?
YOU WIN, JUNKO.
IT'S PUNK IN THE BRAIN!
What's this?

.....
YEAH, THEY WERE SO LOVEY-DOVEY.
WHAT THE HELL ?!
IT WAS TOTALLY ANNOYING.
WHAT ?!
Nana and NOBU ?!
JACKSON HOLE

WHY'D SHE HIDE IT FROM US?
FINE, BUT WHY DIDN'T SHE TELL US?
SOME-ONE REALLY HORRIBLE OR SCANDAL-OUS.
OH, I THINK SHE WAS HIDING SOME OTHER GUY FROM US.
WELL, I GUESS THAT DIDN'T WORK OUT.
LAST I HEARD, SHE LIKED YASU.
...
NANA HAD TO STOP CHASING GUYS SHE COULDN'T GET.
BUT IT SEEMED LIKE SHE FORGOT ABOUT HER EX PRETTY DAMN FAST.
YEAH ...
clink
....
...AND NOBU WAS NICE TO HER THEN, SO SHE PROBABLY JUST WENT ALONG WITH IT.
AT ANY RATE, SHE WAS REALLY DEPRESSED ABOUT HER EX, AND WHOEVER ELSE...
ONE JACKSON BURGER, SIR! ♡
OH, POOR LITTLE EX.
YEAH, THERE'RE PLENTY OF GUYS OUT THERE BETTER THAN HER EX.
WELL, I DON'T THINK NANA'S EX HAD MUCH TO OFFER HER.
I MEAN, JUST TAKE A LOOK AROUND.
YEAH ...

OH— I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE, SHOJI!
SORRY, DUDE!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT YOU'RE SUCH A WALLFLOWER.
You told me to meet you guys here, Junko!
SLAM!
Stop calling me "the ex"!
WELL, AREN'T YOU HERE ALL THE TIME ANY-WAYS?
GOOD THING YOU DON'T LIVE NEAR THE JACKSON ANYMORE.
I CAN'T HELP COMING HERE.
WHAT?
SHOJI, WHEN DID YOU MOVE?
I THOUGHT YOU HAD TO STAY PUT 'CAUSE YOU'RE BROKE.
HE GOT OUT OF HIS LEASE AND MOVED IN WITH SACHIKO.
IT'S JUST A STUDIO APART-MENT.
YEAH, JUST LAST WEEK.
WE WERE BUSY, BUT HE MADE US HELP HIM MOVE.
IT REALLY PUT US OUT.
WHAT-EVER!
I DIDN'T EVEN ASK, YOU JUST BARGED IN TO SPY ON ME!

WHY NOT ?!
SAVE YOUR MONEY FOR THE MOVE!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME IN.
WELL, NANA STOPPED COMING HERE, 'CAUSE YOU'RE HERE ALL THE TIME.
BUM-MER.
I CAN EVEN WALK FROM THERE.
YEAH.
THAT'S PRETTY CLOSE.
SACHI-KO'S PAD IS NEAR THE NEXT STATION ?
DON'T WORRY, KOICHI SATO, NOTHING'S GOING TO CHANGE.
SORRY...
.....
NANA'S ROOM-MATE.
WHAT GURU ?!
THE NAME FITS!
OH...
HE PROBABLY DOESN'T HAVE TIME TO SIT AROUND AND DRINK, WHAT WITH HIS JOBS AND THE BAND.
I THOUGHT HE LIVED IN THIS NEIGH-BOR-HOOD.
NOBU'S NEVER BEEN HERE ?
HUH ?
I WANT TO SEE THIS GUY. ♡
BUT NOW THAT NANA HAS SUCH A LOVEY-DOVEY NEW BOYFRIEND, TELL HER TO STOP IN AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE EX!
HE'S PROB-ABLY BROKE, TOO.
THE GURU HASN'T COME IN EITHER, RIGHT?

HAVE YOU SEEN THEM PLAY?
YOU MET HIM?
HUH?
FROM WHAT NANA TOLD ME A WHILE BACK...
NO, BUT...
....
YEAH, TOTALLY.
BUT HE'S USUALLY JUST PART OF THE SCENERY, KIND OF LIKE HER EX.
LIKE A TRANS-FORMER..
Ah Ha Ha!
TRANS-FORMER!
BUT ON STAGE HE LOOKS PRETTY COOL. HE'S GOT GREAT STAGE PRESENCE. IT'S WEIRD.
HE'S ALL RIGHT.
IS NANA'S NEW DUDE PRETTY HOT?
I THOUGHT HE WAS KIND OF PRETEN-TIOUS.
OH REALLY?
LIKE THE STUPID WAY HE TALKS.
YEAH...
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT!
NOBU IS KIND OF LIKE HER EX.
THAT BIG LOSER ACTUALLY SAID TO THE GURU...
I GUESS THAT'S ENOUGH TO GET NANA INTERESTED, BUT C'MON...
HE GAVE UP HIS INHERITANCE OF HIS FAMILY'S BIG HOTEL AND MOVED TO TOKYO TO BE IN A BAND.
"I'LL BE HAPPY AS LONG AS I CAN PLAY GUITAR...
...AND YOU'RE SING-ING."

WAIT, NOW I GET IT!
NOW I THINK I KNOW WHAT NANA SEES IN NOBU.
HE KNOWS WHAT TO SAY AND DO WHEN IT REALLY COUNTS.
YOU SUCK 'CAUSE YOU CAN'T ALLOW YOURSELF TO SAY CHEESY, ROMANTIC THINGS.
YEAH, YOU MAKE THINGS WORSE BY TRYING TO PLAY IT COOL ALL THE TIME.
THAT'S SO CHEESY!
THAT'S WHY YOU SUCK.
GIVE ME A BREAK! WHO TALKS LIKE THAT?!
THAT'S SO COOL!
WOW!
OH SHUT UP!
YEAH... HOW'RE YOU EVER GOING TO LIVE UP TO THAT, YOU SLACKER?
HE KNOWS HOW TO TRANSFORM HIS FEELINGS INTO THIS MAGNETIC ENERGY HE PROJECTS.
DAMN. I BET THE LADIES EAT IT UP!
HE LEARNED HOW TO WORK IT BY PLAYING ON STAGE.
....
WHAT DO YOU THINK, SHOJI?
WHO, ME?
IT'S COOL ...
I JUST WANT NANA TO BE HAPPY.
I DON'T THINK SHE FELL FOR HIM JUST 'CAUSE HE'S A NICE GUY.
IF NOBU CAN BE NANA'S FRIEND, AND ALSO BE THERE FOR HER INTIMATELY AT ALL THE CRUCIAL MOMENTS, THEN THAT'S HER IDEAL BOYFRIEND.
YEAH, THINGS MIGHT ACTUALLY WORK OUT THIS TIME.

ARE YOU JEAL-OUS?
Koi-chi Sato!
Another Jackson burger please!
For my girl-friend, SACHI-KO!
HEY, YOU'RE HOME!
AND WITH A PRESENT! ♡
OH...
I SEE YOU WERE AT JACKSON AGAIN.
heh heh
JACKSON HOLE
WHY THANK YOU...

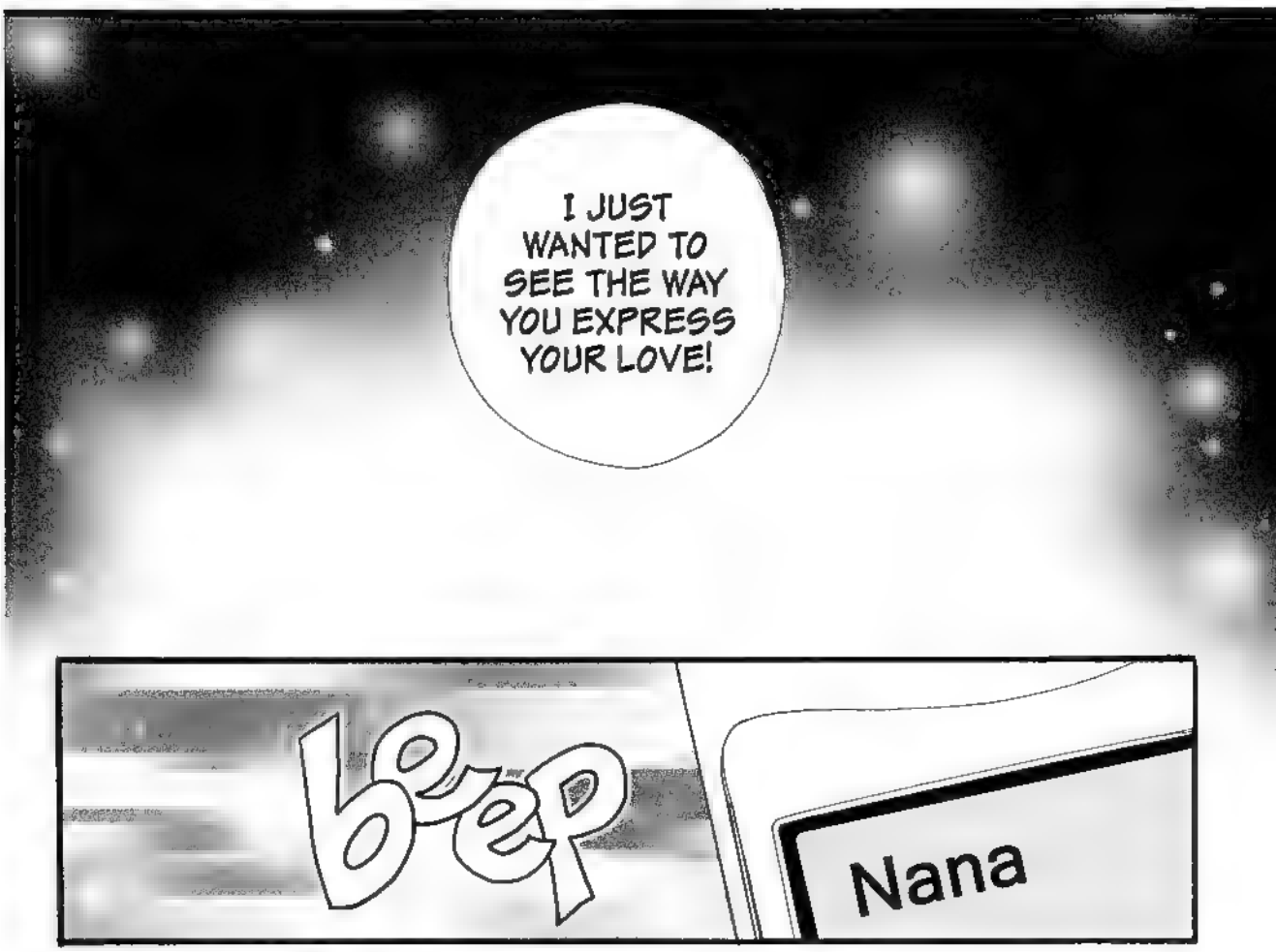
I'M SORRY IT'S NOT A LOUIS VUITTON BAG!
I SUCK, I KNOW ...
?
ACTUALLY, I'D RATHER HAVE A JACKSON BURGER ...
PERSONALLY.
DO YOU THINK I WAS TOO MEAN TO HIM?
OH, WHATEVER.
HE WAS ASKING FOR IT.
Ah Ha Ha!
ASKING FOR IT! ♡

BUT DON'T YOU THINK ...
...THAT'S 'CAUSE SACHIKO WAS MORE INTO SHOJI THAN NANA WAS?
SHOJI WAS REALLY INTO NANA.
HE JUST ENDED UP LIKING SACHIKO MORE.
SHOJI WILL NEVER ADMIT TO BEING JEALOUS...
BUT YOU KNOW HE IS.
WELL, IT'D PISS ME OFF IF HE WASN'T JEALOUS AT ALL.
MEN ARE SO SELF-ISH.
DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?
BUT I THINK THAT'S HOW SHOJI FELT.
TO ME, IT SEEMED LIKE NANA COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT SHOJI.
I KNOW YOU CAN'T REALLY MEASURE OR PROVE NANA OR SACHIKO'S LOVE.
WELL, HOW CAN I PUT IT?
BUT, SHE IS STILL ALIVE.

YEAH...
NANA'S IS SO ONE-WAY, AND IT'S HARD FOR THE OTHER PERSON TO UNDER-STAND.
I GUESS IT'S THE WAY YOU EXPRESS YOUR LOVE.
"NANA DOESN'T LOVE ME FOR WHO I AM.
SHE JUST LOVES THAT I LOVE HER!"
WHEN THEY WERE GOING OUT, SHOJI JUST COMPLAINED AND GOT DRUNK AT HOME A LOT.
SO THAT NIGHT WHEN NANA CAUGHT SHOJI CHEAT-ING ON HER...
SHOJI ACTUALLY FELT DITCHED BY NANA, WHEN SHE SAID "I DON'T WANT A GUY LIKE THAT."
WELL, MAYBE NANA DIDN'T REALLY FEEL THAT WAY, BUT I CAN SEE WHY SHOJI THOUGHT THAT.
Ha Ha!
I DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING, 'CAUSE I FELT SORRY FOR HIM.
YEAH, I KIND OF THOUGHT THAT MIGHT BE THE DEAL.

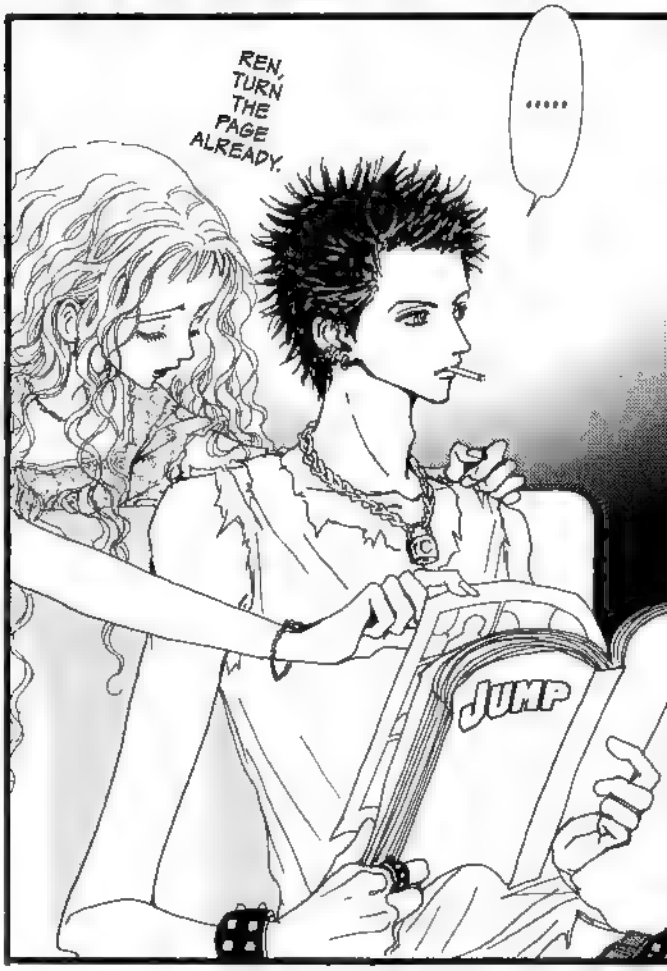
"SO IT'S TRUE!" IT CONFIRMED HIS BIGGEST FEAR.
BUT NANA JUST SAID THAT ...
... 'CAUSE SHE CAN'T DEAL WITH PAIN VERY WELL.
WHEN SHE GETS HURT, SHE JUST RUNS IN THE OTHER DIRECTION.
YEAH ...
I'VE SEEN THAT HAPPEN ...
SHE RUNS AWAY, SHUTS THE DOOR, AND JUST WON'T DEAL WITH THE OTHER PERSON.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH SHE CRIES TO OTHERS, IT'S JUST A ONE-GIRL SHOW...
Ah Ha Ha!
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT ?!
YEAH, SHE'S ALWAYS TALKING TO HERSELF, EVEN WHILE TALKING TO OTHER PEOPLE!
BUT SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO COME CRYING TO YOU ANY MORE.
MAYBE IT MEANS SHE CAN FINALLY DEAL WITH THE GUY SHE'S GOING OUT WITH.
HMM ...
LET'S HOPE SO.
AT LEAST IF NOBU CHEATS ON HER, I WANT HER TO BE PASSIONATE, TO CRY TO HIM AND TRY TO WORK THINGS OUT WITH HIM.

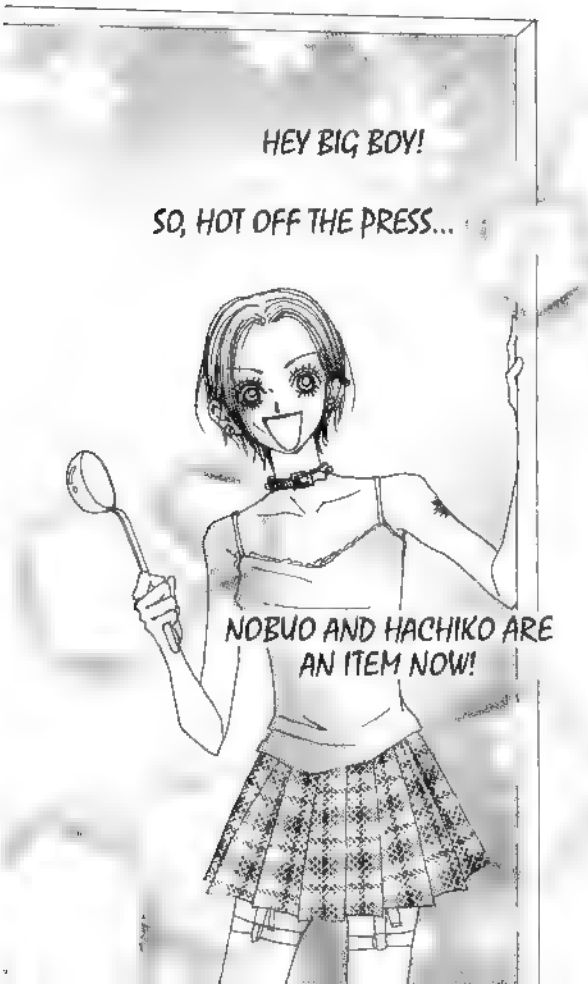
I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK YOU'D GONE SOFT.
GOOD TO KNOW, GOOD TO KNOW.
Why do you ask?!
I'D TOR- TURE YOU TO DEATH.
NO WAY.
I DOUBT IT!
SO IF I CHEATED ON YOU, WOULD YOU DO THAT WITH ME?


I JUST WANTED TO SEE THE WAY YOU EXPRESS YOUR LOVE!
beep
Nana

THE NUMBER YOU'VE REACHED ...
...DOES NOT ACCEPT UNIDEN-TIFIED CALLS.
FLICK
PLEASE ACTIVATE CALLER ID..
...AND PLACE YOUR CALL AGAIN.

WHY WOULD SOMEONE SUDDENLY SCREEN THEIR CALLS?!
MAYBE 'CAUSE THEY HATE YOU!
SLAM


REN, TURN THE PAGE ALREADY.
.....
JUMP


HEY BIG BOY!
SO, HOT OFF THE PRESS...
NOBUO AND HACHIKO ARE AN ITEM NOW!

REALLY ?
YOU KNOW HACHIKO WOULDN'T DO THAT.
WHAT-EVER...
I WANT IN!
WAY TO GO, HACHIKO!
WHAT? SO NOW SHE'S GOT TWO BOY-FRIENDS ?
SHE BROKE UP WITH TAKUMI, DUDE.
YEAH? LOOK WHO'S TALKIN'!
ALL HE THINKS ABOUT IS GETTING LAID.
WELL THAT SCUMBAG DESERVES TO GET DUMPED.
I THOUGHT THAT WAS HISTORY?
WHO? HACHI-KO?
IT'S SO IRRITATING.
I'LL JUST IGNORE HER.
OH ...
YO— I'VE GOT MY PRIDE, DUDE.
IT'S ONLY THREE EXTRA NUMBERS.
JUST TURN YOUR CALLER ID ON.
SHE'S JUST MAD AT ME.
NO.

Creak
JUMP
IT ALWAYS ENDS IN A CLIFF-HANGER.
IT'S NOT WORTH IT.
I'M OUT.
SOUNDS LIKE THINGS ARE GETTING COMPLICATED.
I DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED.
Puff
WHY AREN'T THOSE REPORTERS HERE YET?!
THEY'RE LATE!
THEY DON'T CARE!
CRASH
TAKUMI—THEY'VE STILL GOT 10 MINUTES!
HACHI-KO'S NOT ENOUGH FOR A MAN LIKE YOU?
WELL, SHE IS A DOG.
AU CON-TRAIRE ...
SWOON
THERE JUST HAPPENED TO BE A SEX SCENE ON THAT PAGE!
YOU KNOW HOW MANGA IS THESE DAYS!
YOU HORN-DOG!
I NEVER KNEW YOU'RE INTO PORNO MANGA!

WHEN WE TALK, I DON'T FEEL LIKE I'M TALKING TO A LADY.
YOU'RE JUST LIKE REN!
HOW?!
Is she HOT in the sack?!
What?!
WELL, I HAVE YOU TO THANK.
I'M PSYCHED FOR YOU GUYS.
WELL, GOOD FOR YOU, LI'L NOBUO! ♡
I THINK WE'RE PRETTY TIGHT. ♡
I KNEW YOU WERE ON MY SIDE. YOU'VE ALWAYS SUPPORTED ME.
Studio
ME?
....
YOU CHEESE BALL!
IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU, DUDE.

SORRY, I USED YOU.
SAD BUT TRUE.
.....
YOU'RE SO ANNOYING.
WHAT-EVER. THAT'S NOT IT.
WELL, SHE WILL BE!
YOU'RE JUST USING ME TO MAKE HER HAPPY!
YOU JUST CARE ABOUT HACHI!
OHHH!
WELL, THEN HOW?
NO.
AS REVENGE AGAINST TAKUMI?

TO GIVE HACHIKO FREE RUN OF MY KINGDOM.

IT'S UP TO YOU...
...FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE.
...TO MAKE SURE SHE NEVER RUNS AWAY...
NOBU!

OH!
NANA!

SHE'S STILL JUST AS WARPED AS SHE WAS BEFORE.
I THOUGHT SHE STRAIGHTENED OUT AFTER GETTING TOGETHER WITH REN.
Blast
Cherry
DO YOU THINK PEOPLE EVER REALLY CHANGE?
I'M SURE IT'S JUST A FASHION STATE-MENT...
OR IS IT?
...'CAUSE SHE'S INTO SID VICIOUS ...
BUT THAT'S JUST ...
HUH?
I MEAN, SHE PUT A PADLOCK AROUND HIS NECK!
...IS KINDA EXTREME, EVEN WITH REN?
BUT DON'T YOU THINK NANA'S POSSES-SIVENESS ...
EVEN IF YOU LOVE SOME-ONE...
...ISN'T THAT GOING A LITTLE TOO FAR?
BUT I THINK THERE'S MORE TO IT.
SHE ALSO GOT A REN FLOWER TATTOOED ON HER ARM.

I'M SURE REN'S PRETTY CRAZY HIMSELF.
AND EVEN AFTER BEING BROKEN UP FOR TWO YEARS, REN WAS STILL OBSESSED WITH NANA.
BUT HE SEEMS TO BE INTO IT.
IS IT WRONG FOR ME TO THINK THEY'RE KIND OF SCARY?
BUT HACHI TALKS ABOUT THEM LIKE THEY'RE THE IDEAL COUPLE.
LIKE LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT?!
THAT'S MY KIND OF STORY!

ガーン
DAMN. SHE'S SUCH A SADIST.
IT'S KEIKO.
.....
SO DID YOU ENCOURAGE US TOO 'CAUSE YOU WANTED TO KEEP HER IN THE KINGDOM?
YOU SAID SHE WAS LIKE A DOG, AND TOLD ME TO CHASE SOME TAIL!
I'M STOKED YOU GUYS ARE TOGETHER NOW, NOBU.
I WON'T BE CRASHING HERE TONIGHT, SO YOU CAN HAVE HACHI OVER AGAIN.
A sadist ?!
What ?!
LIKE HOW?
.....

SO, ARE YOU BOUND?
WELL, I KNOW YOU'RE SLEEPING TOGETHER ALREADY...
AND THAT'S COOL, IF YOU LOVE EACH OTHER.
.....
...!
NO, NO. I WANTED YOU TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION.
OHHH...
WHAT QUESTION?
"IF A MAN AND A WOMAN ARE JUST OBJECTS TO EACH OTHER...
...CAN THEY REALLY BE BOUND BY LOVE?"
ARE YOU GUYS BOUND TOGETHER BY LOVE?
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIND THAT ONE OUT FOR YOURSELF, BUDDY.

THIS IS JUST A TEMPORARY CONTRACT.
BUT FOR ME, THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.
I'LL DO MY BEST TO HAVE THIS CONTRACT TURNED INTO THE OFFICIAL ONE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE...
WHEN THE ALBUM'S RELEASE DATE IS SET, THEN WE'LL DRAW UP AN OFFICIAL CONTRACT.
I DON'T NEED THE DETAILS.
I'M BUSY.
I HAVEN'T BEEN GETTING EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED ...
BUT IT'S SALES, PROMOTION, ADVERTISING, AND THE BIG WIGS...
THEY'RE THE ONES WHO GET DIFFICULT ABOUT MONEY.
Heh heh heh

I JUST HAVE TO SIGN AND STAMP THIS TEMPORARY CONTRACT, RIGHT?
YES... WELL...
YEAH, I GUESS THAT'S IT.
FLICK
WE'LL BE WATCHING OUT FOR YOUR SON'S BEST INTERESTS...
I DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE FOR ME OR MY OTHER SON BECAUSE OF THAT NONSENSE.
IN SHOWBIZ, PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW THE SMALLEST DETAILS ABOUT CELEBRITIES.
SO I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN FOR YOUR SON'S WELL BEING.
OF COURSE. I HAVE KIDS TOO...
WHATEVER. BUT I'M A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT THE SHOWBIZ WORLD.
THAT'S NOT MY CON-CERN.
puff
.....

I JUST DON'T WANT OUR FAMILY'S DIRTY LAUNDRY EXPOSED TO THE PUBLIC.
I'M FINE WITH WHATEVER, AS LONG AS YOU CAN CONCEAL HIS FAMILY IDENTITY.
BUSINESS WILL BE SMOOTHER THAT WAY.
FOR EXAMPLE, WITH YOUR SON, WE WERE PLANNING ON PRETENDING HE'S EIGHTEEN.
OH...
...PROMOTING THE BAND WITHOUT USING ANYONE'S REAL NAME OR BIO.
WE WERE THINKING OF...
WELL...
I DON'T HAVE THE TIME OR ENERGY TO SPEND ON MEETINGS AND THINGS LIKE THIS.
AND WHEN YOU DRAW UP THE OFFICIAL CONTRACT, CAN YOU JUST SEND IT IN THE MAIL?
stamp
NOW I'LL BE ON MY WAY.
Scoot
MR. OKAZAKI?
EVEN THOUGH HE'S NOT YOUR FLESH AND BLOOD, DON'T YOU FEEL ANYTHING FOR THIS KID YOU RAISED FOR FIFTEEN YEARS?

UNFORTUNATELY, I DON'T.
I COULD NEVER BRING MYSELF TO FEEL ANY LOVE FOR [illegible]!
NOT EVEN ONCE.
I DID TRY, THOUGH.

HACHI-KO...
I'M RUNNING OUT OF PAINT. CAN I OPEN ANOTHER CAN?
SURE.
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND HELPING ME DO THIS.
NO, IT'S FUN!
I LIKE MAKING IT BRIGHTER AND CHEERIER IN HERE. IT'S NICE. ♡
I JUST NEED TO SEAL AWAY SOME MEMO-RIES...
BUT I FEEL KIND OF LIKE A CRIMINAL HIDING EVIDENCE.
AM I STILL ...
...MAKING MISTAKES SOME-WHERE, SOMEHOW?

HEY, NANA...

THE MISTAKES I MADE, THE SCARS I HAVE
...WON'T DISAPPEAR, EVEN IF I COVER THEM UP.
SO I'M STILL CALLING YOUR NAME...
...NO MATTER HOW MUCH IT HURTS.

UNTIL YOU ANSWER ME.

7F SNACK BAR
Junko's Place
.....
WELCOME.
IN THE MAIN STORY, HACHI ONCE TOLD ME THAT IF I TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WOMEN, I COULD GET HURT.
AND SHE WAS RIGHT! AND THERE'S MONEY INVOLVED, SO IT'S REALLY SCARY!
I'M VOLUN-TEER-ING.
YOU WORK HERE?
SHIN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DAMN, GIRL!
GO GET SOME HOT SAKE READY FOR OUR VALUED CUSTOMER!
I'M GONNA MAKE YOU WORK FOR THAT ¥10,000 YOU STOLE!
HEY SHIN!
STOLE?
Ding dong
TAKE A SEAT!
HEY, YASU! ♡
?
WHAT DID YOU DO?!
EVEN ON THE BONUS PAGE, YOU..

Tochigi
ICHIGO MINA

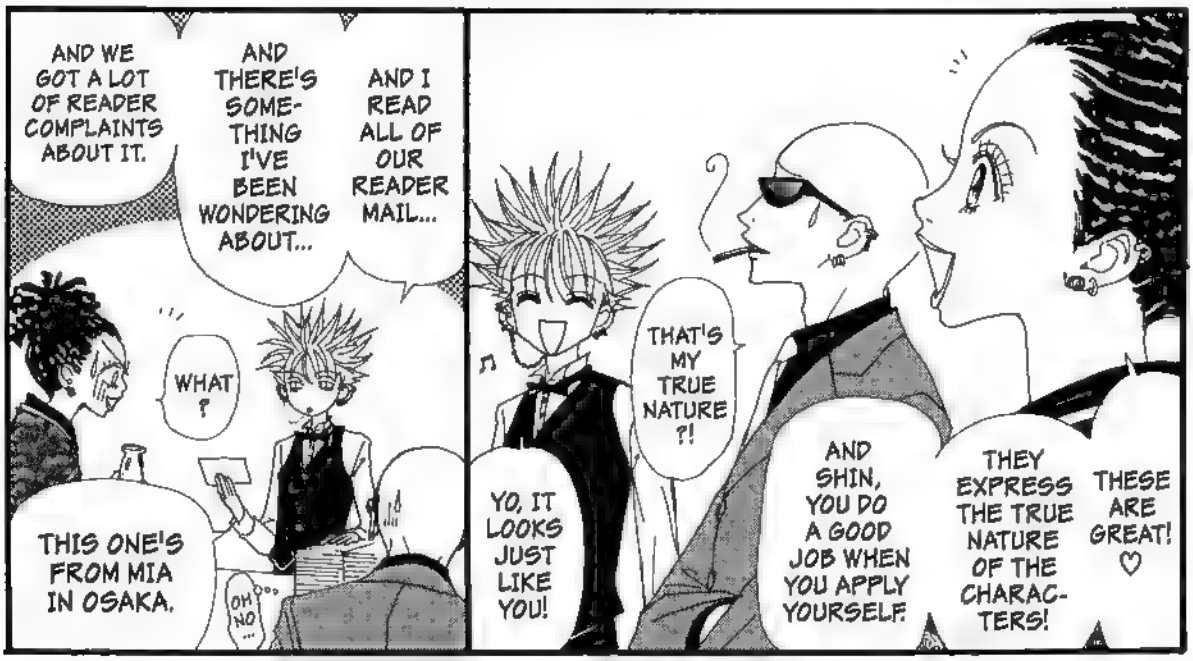
NANASAKI KONEKA
Tokyo

HOROSCOPE
Hyogo

ONOBE
Hiroshima

MORI HIDEYUKI
Tokyo

KURAMAN
Nagano


AND WE GOT A LOT OF READER COMPLAINTS ABOUT IT.
AND THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT...
AND I READ ALL OF OUR READER MAIL...
WHAT?
THIS ONE'S FROM MIA IN OSAKA.
OH NO...
YO, IT LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU!
THAT'S MY TRUE NATURE?!
AND SHIN, YOU DO A GOOD JOB WHEN YOU APPLY YOURSELF.
THEY EXPRESS THE TRUE NATURE OF THE CHARACTERS!
THESE ARE GREAT! ♡

.....
Nana Osaki's long nails keep bothering me. It's impossible to play the guitar like that. Is this one of the seven wonders of the world?
—Mia
BUT BEFORE THAT, HER NAILS WERE ALWAYS LONG, EVEN WHEN SHE'S PLAYING SHOWS AND STUFF.
NANA
BUT THERE ARE STILL PANELS WITH LONG NAILS. CAN SHE CHANGE HER NAILS THAT QUICKLY? THIS MAY BE A BIGGER PROBLEM.
WELL APPARENTLY, DUE TO THE VOLUME OF COMPLAINTS, AS OF CHAPTER 16 NANA'S NAILS ARE SHORT WHEN SHE GOES TO PRACTICE.
LET'S JUST SAY THAT.
YEAH... OF COURSE.
SHE TAKES 'EM OFF WHEN SHE PLAYS GUITAR, RIGHT?
AREN'T HER NAILS FAKE?
NO ONE HAS NATURAL NAILS THAT ARE THAT LONG.
.....
ALL RIGHT. I'LL PUT A WARRANT OUT FOR THE MANGAKA'S ARREST.
WHAT?! YOU'RE GOING TO ARREST HER?
WELL, WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?! THERE'VE BEEN SO MANY SCANDALS.
....
AND THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE THAT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME.
...WITH NO POLICE ...
OR LAWYERS.
IF YOU SAY THAT, YOU'LL CREATE A LAW-LESS LAND...
WELL, IT'S JUST A MANGA!
.....

IS THE GUITAR JUST AN ACCESSORY?
CAN SHE REALLY PLAY?
THERE'RE NO SCENES WHERE THE GURU'S ACTUALLY PLAYING THE GUITAR.
Ahh
!cocoon
WHAT'S WRONG? DO YOU HAVE A COLD?
NANA!
NO, THE FAITHFUL MUST BE TALKING ABOUT HOW WONDERFUL I AM.
WHAT ?
WHERE'S HE TAKING US?!
I DON'T SEE ANY BUILDINGS OR NEON SIGNS.
PUSAKU— WHERE'S "ISA-BELLA'S ISLAND" ?

anticipation
HEY!!
WHO GIVES A CRAP?!
OH! SO PUSAKU'S A POST-BEAR!
THAT'S WHY HE DELIVERED THE CHOCOLATES TO US!
IT'S THE POSTAL SIGN!
THANKS, PUSAKU.
DID YOU MAKE THIS BY YOURSELF?
YOU'RE GIVING IT TO US? ♡ THANKS!
YUM, IT'S HONEY! ♡
.....
Sorry, we're closed.
WHISK
?
WHISK
AND HE'S SUCH A NICE PERSON ...
BUT HE SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE'RE HUNGRY...
DUH, HE'S A STUFFED BEAR!
I DON'T THINK HE UNDERSTANDS WHAT WE'RE SAYING!
GOOD NIGHT, PUSAKU.
HE'S NOT A PERSON!
SO WHERE'S "ISABELLA'S ISLAND"?!

BUT IT HAS TO END AT VOLUME 7!
WHAT?!
WHY?
BECAUSE!
AND IT'S NOWHERE NEAR THE END.
BUT THIS IS VOLUME 7.
I HATE THESE STUPID BONUS PAGES!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?!
THEY SUCK!
NANA, IT'S GONNA BE ALL RIGHT!
THIS MANGA'S MAIN STORY HAS TO END WITH VOLUME 7!
THEN WE'LL BE ABLE TO RETURN SAFELY.
AND THEN I CAN BE GEORGE'S SEVENTH WIFE!
WHAT THE HELL?!
AND I DON'T THINK I CAN MAKE IT THAT LONG...
IF WE DON'T END AT 7, THEN WE HAVE TO GO UNTIL VOLUME 77...

JUNKO, YOU'RE PUTTING OUT A CD?
HUH?
SHE'S DIVING RIGHT INTO THE BIZ!
Heh heh
ALL RIGHT...
I HAVE A PHOTO SHOOT TOMORROW, SO I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE.
SHIN, I NEED YOU TO HOLD DOWN THE FORT.
I HAVE TO PUT ON MY FACE.
PHOTO SHOOT?
GOOD LUCK.
IS IT FOR THE CD COVER?

IT'S ON SALE NOW! [NOVEMBER 27TH, 2002!]
THE CD'S CALLED "TSUYA"!
SO ALL YOU FOOLS BETTER RUN AND GO GET IT!
Tsuya
AND IT EVEN COMES WITH SINGING INSTRUC-TIONS BY JUNKO-MAMA!
ARE YOU FOR REALS?
FROM SONY?!
REALLY?!
Amagigoe
SHE'S DOING THE COVER FOR A COMPILATION CD OF FEMALE KARAOKE STANDARDS.
SONY'S PUTTING IT OUT.
NO, JUNKO'S NOT SINGING ON IT.
LIKE SAYURI ISHIKAWA'S "AMAGIGOE" AND JUDY ONGG'S "MISERA-RETE."
TAKE THAT, BLAST!
SO THIS DESOLATE SNACK BAR WILL FINALLY SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY.
NANA c/o Shojo Beat
VIZ Media
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94133
WE'RE ANXIOUSLY AWAITING YOUR LETTERS!
♡
(Note) It really did come out.
JUNKO, YOU LOST YER MIND...
Write this down!
☆ Title: "Tsuya"
☆ On sale: November 27th, 2002 (Wednesday)
☆ Label: Sony Music
BETTER THAN THE MAIN PLOT?!
YOU KNOW "JUNKO'S PLACE" WILL BE OPEN IN THE NEXT VOLUME TOO!

I had an opportunity to interview a group of professional musicians. I showered them with questions, but they answered willingly, and it was very helpful. I was having problems balancing the fictional world of manga-like simplicity and gorgeousness with a sense of reality. But I realized again that what's important is the humanity of the characters.

–Ai Yazawa

Ai Yazawa is the creator of many popular manga titles, including *Tenshi Nanka Janai* (I'm No Angel) and *Gokinjo Monogatari* (Neighborhood Story). Another series, *Kagen no Tsuki* (Last Quarter), was made into a live-action movie and released in late 2004. American readers were introduced to Yazawa's stylish and sexy storytelling in 2002 when her title *Paradise Kiss* was translated into English.

Nana is the all-time best-selling shojo title from Japanese publishing giant Shueisha, and the series even garnered a Shogakukan Manga Award in the girls category in 2003 and a nomination for the Osamu Tezuka Cultural Award in 2006. A live-action *Nana* movie was released in Japan in 2005.

NANA
VOL. 7

Shojo Beat Manga Edition

This manga volume contains material that was originally published in English in *Shojo Beat* magazine, May-August 2007. Artwork in the magazine may have been altered slightly from what is presented in this volume.

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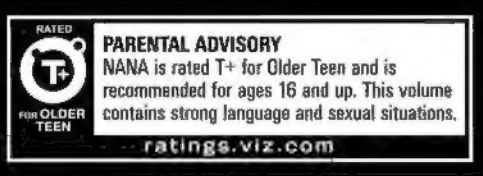
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PARENTAL ADVISORY
NANA is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains strong language and sexual situations.
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